

Yemen says Eritreans occupy Lesser Hanish; Asmara denies charge

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Eritrea on Wednesday denied that its troops had occupied the Red Sea island of Lesser Hanish, as charged by Yemen.

Kidane Woldeyesus, first secretary at the Eritrean embassy in Nairobi, said Sana'a's charge that Eritrean troops occupied the island in the disputed Hanish archipelago on Aug. 10 was "totally unfounded."

"There have been no troop movements at all — no firing, no shooting," he told AFP.

"Nothing has changed" since a brief war between Yemen and Eritrea over the strategic islands in December, he said, adding that "the Yemenis might have their own reasons for making such an allegation."

Yemen said late Tuesday Eritrean troops occupied Lesser Hanish at the southern entrance to the Red Sea on Saturday in a new flare-up of a long-running dispute between the two countries over the Hanish archipelago.

Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani chaired a cabinet meeting on Tuesday to study a Defence Ministry report on the "Eritrean military presence on Lesser Hanish since Aug. 10," an official said.

A cabinet statement issued after the meeting said "the Eritrean military presence is a flagrant violation" of the accord signed between Sana'a and Asmara on May 21 in Paris "in a bid to resolve their long-running dispute over the Hanish archipelago."

"This violation of the principles of the accord are aimed at provoking tension in the Red Sea," it said.

Eritrean troops seized one

of the main islands in the chain, Greater Hanish, in December after a three-day battle with Yemeni forces.

The two countries signed the French-brokered Paris accord in May to submit their dispute to international arbitration.

Lesser Hanish, which is eight square kilometres, was totally deserted before Eritrean troops landed on the island on Saturday, according to Yemeni sources.

Sovereignty over the Hanish islands, a former Ottoman possession, has never been decided by international convention.

Both Yemen and Eritrea claimed to have inherited the islands after the break-up of the Ottoman empire.

The archipelago, which covers 200 square kilometres, controls access to the Bab Al Mandab Straits at the southern entrance to the Red Sea which is criss-crossed by international shipping lanes.

Yemen has stepped up its military presence on the biggest island in the chain, Jabal Zogor.

A French military delegation visited Yemen and Eritrea in May and June to check the two sides were respecting the May accord, under which they renounced the use of force and pledged to find a peaceful solution to their dispute.

The accord also called for the creation of an international arbitration tribunal to rule on the dispute. The panel, which is to be created this year, will have four members appointed by Sana'a and Asmara who will then nominate a fifth person to chair it.

Sharaa says North Africa mission was successful

RABAT (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa met King Hassan in Rabat on Tuesday and said his North Africa tour was successful and that the Arab had a unified position towards the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Sharaa, who is touring North Africa with messages from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, held a private talk with King Hassan at the 20 kilometre south of Rabat, officials said.

"I delivered a letter to His Majesty King Hassan from President Assad...I can say that my tour was successful and confirmed Arab point of view and unified position towards the Middle East peace process," Mr. Sharaa told reporters before he flew from Rabat airport.

Answering a question on

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's refusal to withdraw from the Golan Heights, Mr. Sharaa said, "Israel cannot ignore the unified Arab position which requests the return of all occupied territories by Israel including the Golan Heights to its owners."

Prior to any peace settlement, Mr. Sharaa said, "Syria requests from Israel to leave and return all Arab territories to the last inch."

Syria last week rejected an offer by Mr. Netanyahu to seek agreement on a pull back from South Lebanon before a peace settlement with Syria.

Under Mr. Netanyahu's "Lebanon first" proposal Israel would, if its security conditions were met, withdraw from a 15-kilometre-wide South Lebanon buffer zone it occupies.



LEBANESE RESIDENTS WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF BEIRUT: Lebanese residents walk through Beirut's main street Hamra, swamped with posters of candidates for next month's general elections. A group of young intellectuals and professionals worried about the state of democracy and public life in Lebanon has banded together in the Lebanese Association for the Democracy of Elections (LADE) to campaign for real democracy in the polls (Reuters photo)

Lebanon sinks in sea of candidates' photo posters in election frenzy

By Hitham Haddadin
Reuters

BEIRUT — It seems no one is smiling in Lebanon nowadays, except parliamentarian candidates and printhouse owners dishing out tens of thousands of election posters swamping the country as its polls bazaar hits its stride.

Outraged, Beirut residents and the press say the candidates' posters that have sprung up across the capital are an added eyecore in a city already lacking almost any civil planning after a ferocious 16-year civil war.

In every neighbourhood nicely dressed candidates hoping to get a seat in the 128-member house gaze down from posters put up on walls, electricity poles, bridges, traffic lights, road signs, monuments, trees and trash containers.

The posters are so numerous that French singer Daniel Guichard — due to sing in Beirut in September as the polls are in progress — added the phrase "je ne suis pas candidat" (I'm not a candidate) on his wall posters not to be mistaken for one.

"Whoever moves around Beirut these days has to be armed with special glasses to guard against the colourful mosaic bombardment of eyes everywhere," Beirut's Al Nahar daily said in an article on the posters, many of which are

in tatters now. "The candidates' posters have fired the bullet of mercy at any site of beauty we may find in Beirut," it added.

But for Lebanon's printing houses, many of which would have otherwise had a dismal summer, election season is a boon.

"The talk of town is the elections. This is the season and every one is rushing," Carl Kourani, whose printing house has switched from printing commercial to election posters, said.

"For some candidates we are printing 15,000 posters every three days...For some even more," he told Reuters. Some 371 people, all but six of them men, have declared their candidacy so far and hundreds more are expected to do so compared with 500 who ran in 1992. The five rounds of voting proceed on five consecutive Sundays starting Aug. 18.

There are printing houses that benefit in the elections season...It's not that their work has increased, they had no work to begin with in the summer when most people are on holiday," Mr. Kourani added.

Demand for posters has risen in this election as some Christians are running or voting, unlike in 1992 when most boycotted parliamentary polls in protest at the election law

and the presence of 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon.

In sharp contrast to 1992, many Christian East Beirut areas, like Sassine Square, are now part of the jungle of posters — where no holds are barred among the competitors.

Candidates send "specialists" to hang their posters on city walls at night. The next day some of the pictures would either have fallen from place, be turned upside down, or carry the scars of raids by rival supporters or frustrated citizens.

"What's the use of these posters? They're a mess and don't tell us a thing about the candidate or his platform. Are we to vote for the way they look?" said Beirut resident Nadine at a beach club.

Nearby, a big poster of Member of Parliament (MP) Adnan Traboulsi was hung on Beirut's famous 70-metre-high Pigeon rock rising out of the sea.

Many of the poster-hangers move quickly and at night, mainly to escape the wrath of homeowners or shopkeepers who wake up every morning to dozens of new posters glued on their walls.

On one Beirut wall, the shredded posters of a candidate in a smart suit stood next to those of a circus clown. Others compete for space with the posters of a scantily-dressed belly-dancer.

Running out of space, one ingenious candidate even put small pictures of himself carrying the red-green-and-white Lebanese flag on watermelons in a pile at a makeshift Beirut shop.

"We admit this phenomenon disfigures Beirut and the areas but it's temporary," Municipalities Minister Hagop Demourjian acknowledged the posters made Beirut ugly and would be removed at the end of the polls.

"If we remove the posters now they will accuse us that we are against democracy and free competition, especially as many candidates consider that putting up their posters in the streets is the least costly way to attract people and win their votes."

Even billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who has spearheaded efforts since 1992 to undo the damage of the 1975-90 civil war, jokingly admitted defeat against the posters.

Asked what he thought of those who put up their posters, Mr. Hariri told reporters on Monday as he declared his candidacy: "If I give my honest opinion, I don't think I will be able to put together an election list."

His posters are the biggest and neatest in town.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gambia denies link to Mauritania drugs

BANJUL (AFP) — The Gambian government issued an official denial late Tuesday of allegations that almost seven tonnes of drugs seized in Mauritania was destined for the Gambian Ministry of Agriculture. In a broadcast statement, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources said it "disclaims any connection with the shipment of illegal drugs which was found on a vessel in a Mauritanian port." The ministry "wishes to unequivocally dissociate itself from the said consignment," the statement said, expressing "total condemnation of this abominable action." The 6.75 tonnes of drugs were found on Sunday in the port of Nouakchott aboard a Danish-flagged freighter which had arrived from Cambodia via Spain. Mauritanian authorities said the consignment was destined for the Gambian Ministry of Agriculture. The Gambian ministry said it had never ordered any goods from Cambodia and had no agent, or firm based in this country. It said no cargo was expected from Cambodia. In France, informed sources said that the drug involved was marijuana. However, no confirmation of this was available from Mauritanian officials. Mauritanian authorities had identified the drug as heroin on Monday, saying that the drug haul was one of the biggest in history with a street value of nearly \$500 million.

30-year-old shell kills 7 in Yemen

SANAA (AFP) — Seven people died, including six small children, and eight others were injured when a 30-year-old shell buried in the sand exploded at Sa'ada, 170 kilometres north of the Yemeni capital Sana'a, police sources said. The seventh fatal casualty was a woman, as were all the injured. The shell had been uncovered by the recent torrential rains which have fallen on much of the country.

Indonesia jails Iranian drug smuggler

JAKARTA (AP) — An Iranian was sentenced Tuesday to 14 years in prison for smuggling 200 grammes of heroin and codeine in capsules in his stomach, a newspaper reported. Mansyur Habasy, 38, also was fined 15 million rupiah (\$6,465), the newspaper Pos Kota said. He said he would appeal. Judge Chaidir Anwar was quoted as saying Habasy arrived in Jakarta in January, vomited up the capsules at a hotel and was awaiting an unidentified buyer at another hotel when he was arrested. Habasy was shot in the leg trying to escape.

UAE to host biggest music festival

ABU DHABI (AP) — Abu Dhabi will host the Arab World's biggest ever music awards festival, featuring more than 700 participants, the Gulf News reported. Performers from throughout the Arab World will participate in the Nov. 21 event, which will be modelled after the American Grammy Awards and organised by the Abu Dhabi television and radio authority, the English-language daily said. Awards for best song, singer, composer and video clip will be handed out, the paper reported. Posthumous prizes will be given to singers who have left a lasting impression on Arabic music. Veteran singers and songwriters who have helped develop Arabic music will also be recognised, said the paper. The four-hour event will feature live shows by more than 22 performers, including Arabic pop star Amr Diab and Gulf singers, Abdul Maguid Abdullah and Asil Abu Bakr Salem, the paper reported.

Amnesty urges Iran to stop executions

NICOSIA (R) — Amnesty International on Tuesday demanded that Iran stop executions which it said were on the rise in the Islamic republic. In a statement faxed to Reuters in Nicosia from London, the human rights group also appealed against amputations of fingers of persons convicted more than once of theft under Iran's Islamic laws. The statement said Amnesty had recorded up to 70 executions so far in 1996, against 50 recorded throughout 1995, adding that the true figure may be higher as it believed many executions were not reported. It said about 20 per cent of those executed were political prisoners convicted on charges such as membership of opposition groups and espionage. Amnesty expressed concern over reports that six people convicted more than once of theft had their fingers amputated earlier in August, which it believed were the first such punishments since 1994. Iran denies having any prisoners of conscience, saying only those convicted of crimes are jailed. Tehran defends its Islamic laws, saying international norms of human rights cannot be imposed on countries if they conflict with national and religious beliefs.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Double Dragon
15:30 The New Three Stooges
15:35 N.B.A. Basketball
16:35 Take Your Pick (Game Show)
17:00 Cinque
17:30 Show — Surprise Sur
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Carol and Company
20:00 Taratuta
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature Film — "Deadly Invasion"
23:59 Comedy — Family Matters

PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Fajr
05:55 (Sunrise) Duha
12:40 Dhuhr
16:20 Asr
19:26 Maghreb
20:50 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiffeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Under the effect of a heat wave, expected to affect the Kingdom and last three days, temperatures are expected to be 3-5 degrees centigrade above average with winds northwesterly to northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman 23/36

Aqaba 27/40
Deserts 20/40
Jordan Valley 27/40

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 36 Aqaba 36 Humidity
readings: Amman 33 per cent,
Aqaba 56 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Jarrah 847351
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 602506
Dr. Ayman Al Muhtaseb 875748
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir 276852
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yacoub Al Khatib 989000
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department
661111

Civil Defence Immediate Resc

642362
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111,
637777

Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department
630321

Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Alkileh Maternity, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08 (53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:20 Sana'a (RJ)
10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:45 Calcutta (add) (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
17:20 Moscow (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
17:35 Casablanca (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
19:00 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
20:25 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:25 Rome (RJ)
20:15 Larnaca (RJ)
Other Flights
06:30 Tel Aviv (LY)
13:40 Doha (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:40 Sharjah (AH)
20:35 Cairo (MS)

20:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:10 Beirut (ME)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
23:25 London (KJ)
23:40 Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Rome (AZ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Moscow (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:15 Rome (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
20:35 Larnaca (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:10 Madrid (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Jeddah (RJ)
22:00 Madrid (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights
07:25 Tel Aviv (LY)
07:45 Beirut, London (BA)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:30 Algiers (AH)

21:25 Cairo (MS)

23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:40 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)
06:40 London (KJ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

10:00 Aqaba (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv) (RW)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg
Apple 700/500
Banana 600/600
Banana (mukhammar) 520/520
Banana (imported) 860/600
Carrot 160/90
Cauliflower 360/240
Cucumber (large) 240/140
Cucumber (small) 420/250
Eggplant 220/140
Garlic 650/400
Grapes 420/250
Lemon 650/450
Marrow (large) 250/150
Marrow (small) 430/260
Mulukhiyah 120/80
Onion (dry) 150/80
Okra 850/500
Pea 500/300
Pear 900/500
Peach 800/500
Pepper (hot) 340/200
Pepper (sweet) 380/240
Potato 350/220
String Bean 750/500
Sweet melon 270/150
Tomato 120/70
Water melon 210/150

Sport

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By Roshan Nahha

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Republicans stoke Clinton assault ahead of Dole nomination

SAN DIEGO, California (AFP) — Republicans have moved into attack mode at their national convention, savaging President Bill Clinton's character as much as his policies.

The banning of abortion and anti-immigration measures — the two hot button issues on the Republican platform — were swept over in Tuesday evening's major speeches in favour of attacks on Clinton.

One day before the convention was set to name Bob Dole as the presidential nominee, keynote speaker New York Representative Susan Molinari passed over controversy, instead targeting Mr. Clinton.

"This speech is a lot like a Bill Clinton promise. It won't last long and it will sound like a Republican talking," she said to cheers and applause from the delegates here for the four-day Republican extravaganza.

The speech by Ms. Molinari, a pro-choice Republican in a party that adopted a platform calling for a constitutional amendment banning abortion in all cases, did not even mention the topic.

Instead, she cast herself in the warm, earthy tones of a mother concerned about jobs, higher taxes and fears of the future.

"I don't know a mom today who isn't being stretched to her limit trying to hold down a job while trying to hold down the fort at home, too," Ms. Molinari said to applause.

Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison also cut right to the chase, using clips and quotes of past Clinton statements to both ridicule and attack the president.

"I dusted off the Clinton campaign promises of 1992," Candidate Clinton promised



Representative Susan Molinari of New York, gives a thumbs up during her keynote address at the Republican National Convention in San Diego (Reuters photo)

a balanced budget. Congress passed it, President Clinton vetoed it," she said.

"Candidate Clinton promised a middle class tax cut. Congress passed it. President Clinton vetoed it."

"Candidate Clinton promised to restore ethics in government," she said pausing for the boos and howls from delegates. "President Clinton put a former bar bouncer in charge of confidential FBI files."

"It's time to elect a president who will keep Bill Clinton's promises and that man is Bob Dole."

Ms. Hutchison and Ms. Molinari were among a long list of women speakers who took the podium Tuesday, apparently aimed at deflect-

another possible point of rupture.

David Welch, a delegate from Washington, said he was disappointed by the choice of Ms. Molinari and wore his hat to "make a statement about how many pro-life people are in the convention."

Ms. Molinari's inclusion was considered by some analysts as a way of appeasing those who favour abortion rights without making it part of the party platform or embodied in a running mate. It is questionable whether that will sway some Republican women.

The latest statewide Los Angeles Times polls shows 34 per cent of Republican women would support Mr. Clinton, rather than Sen. Dole in a two-way race, and many are leaving the Republican ranks because of the party's intolerance over abortion.

Earlier in the day, about 250 supporters of the National Organisation for Women (NOW) marched to the convention site to vent their anger over the party's stand on abortion.

Beth McGovern, the director of the San Diego chapter of NOW, said women were facing an important battle, one to protect women's three-decade right to abortion over too many years of deadly back alley abortions.

"Botched abortions were the leading cause of maternal death before abortion was legalised," she said. "We cannot, we will not go back to the days of back alley abortions."

"We have to keep the issue in the public eye as much as possible. People need to realise they could lose the right to an abortion," she said. "We must do this for our daughters."



Expected Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole gestures (left) as he sits down to lunch with House Speaker Newt Gingrich in San Diego (Reuters photo)

Last flights from Burundi land in Brussels

BRUSSELS (R) — The last two commercial flights from Burundi for some time arrived in Brussels Wednesday carrying more than 400 people who had been both willing and able to leave the troubled central African nation.

Belgian carrier Sabena and Air France have both suspended flights to the country that has been the target of a spreading web of international sanctions since the coup by the Tutsi-dominated army on July 25 ousted President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya and installed Pierre Buyoya in power.

Mr. Ntibantunganya, a Hutu, remains in refuge in the United States embassy in the Burundian capital Bujumbura. But his wife was among the few Burundians on the two flights that landed four hours late at Brussels' Zaventem Airport Wednesday.

She told reporters her husband was safe in the embassy for the time being but the army had refused to allow

him to leave the country.

Others among the passengers, including just 27 of the more than 300 Belgians still in the former Belgian protectorate, said everything in the capital was calm, that the sanctions had not yet bitten and that matters had improved since the coup and the installation of an interim government.

Masumbuko Pie, a retired United Nations worker and former health minister, said Burundi was safer under Major Buyoya than it had been under Mr. Ntibantunganya — a claim being trumpeted by the interim government as it lobbies to get the sanctions lifted.

Mr. Pie said Maj. Buyoya was managing to clamp down on the ethnic slaughter between the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis that has been killing an estimated 1,000 people a month.

But Katelijn Van Eecke, a Belgian, said that while the city was calm, there was still tension in the air as had been the case for the past

two and a half years.

Meanwhile, Maj. Buyoya was Wednesday to offer an olive branch to Hutu extremists fighting the Tutsi-led military government, in a national broadcast setting out a three-year transitional regime.

However, in a speech on national radio later Wednesday, Maj. Buyoya was expected to warn that "dialogue with armed factions" would only be possible "if they first lay down their arms and reject destructive ideologies of extermination and genocide."

Maj. Buyoya was expected to use the broadcast to map out his vision for Burundi and call for a national debate on the country's future.

Last month Maj. Buyoya justified his July 25 coup saying he had stepped in to haul the country back from the abyss after three years of civil strife during which tens of thousands of rival Tutsis and Hutus massacred each other.

Charles and sons cruise Greek islands

ATHENS (AFP) — Britain's Prince Charles has been touring the Greek islands with his sons, police said in the southern Greek port of Koroni. The heir to the British throne and the young princes, William and Harry, were guests aboard the Alexander, the yacht belonging to Greek shipping magnate John Latsis, for the Aegean cruise. The yacht was moored early Wednesday off Koroni. The prince was to head Wednesday through the Ionian Sea and carry on northwards to Mijet, in the Adriatic. Prince Charles is a frequent holiday guest aboard The Alexander.

Chief: Let's save marriage of Charles and Diana

HARARE (AFP) — A Zimbabwean chief has suggested in parliament that this former British colony should intervene to save the marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. "Maybe we should tell them that it is not good for them to divorce," said Chief Makoni, whose forefathers led uprisings against British colonisers a century ago. "I believe that as an independent country, whose power was handed over by Prince Charles when he attended the first independence celebrations (in 1980), we should say something," the chief told parliament Tuesday. Chief Makoni, one of 10 traditional leaders appointed to parliament by President Robert Mugabe, said he was "pained" by the pending divorce.

Boycott of Cruise film fails

BONN (AFP) — A boycott of the new Tom Cruise film Mission Impossible launched by the youth wing of Germany's ruling Christian Democrat Party has flopped, according to box-office figures published Tuesday by the cinema newsletter Blickpunkt: Film. The feature starring and co-produced by Cruise leapt to the head of a list of the top 10 films most popular among cinema-goers in Germany, attracting 774,576 against 200,282 for its nearest rival, Agent 00, which it ousted. In terms of box-office takings the film also came out well ahead of all others, totalling 8.82 million marks (\$6 million). The Young Union, youth wing of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, launched a boycott for the release of the film Thursday because Cruise is a member of the Church of Scientology, arguing that its proceeds would go to the organisation, which it deems of totalitarian bent.

Tom Cruise drops libel suit over his virility

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Tom Cruise has dropped his \$60 million libel suit against a German magazine that alleged he was sterile, his lawyer said Tuesday. Bert Fields said Cruise had decided not to pursue the suit after the magazine Bunte issued an apology Monday and fired the writer who wrote the article. The decision to drop legal action was also partly prompted by the death last week of Bunte's Chairman Hubert Burda and his deputy when their company jet crashed near Offenburg, Germany. "Given this terrible tragedy in the Bunte family, Tom decided that he is not going to put added pressure on these widows and fatherless children by pressing his suit," Fields said. "Under these circumstances, the retraction and apology are enough, Tom was going to give all the money to charity anyway," said Fields.

5 dead, 2 missing as typhoon roars through Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — A powerful typhoon roared through Japan Wednesday, leaving five people dead and another two missing including a U.S. Marine swept out to sea by huge waves in Okinawa, police and news reports said.

Some 41 others were injured, nine seriously, by glass and flying debris after typhoon Kirk came ashore in Kumamoto on the eastern coast of Kyushu shortly before noon, a police spokesman said.

Two houses were destroyed and 344 others damaged, officials said, adding that another 23 commercial buildings were damaged in heavy winds of up to 209 kilometres an hour.

Landslides were reported at 14 separate locations and three vessels were either damaged or sunk. More than 200,000 homes across the southern Japanese island were without power at one stage.

Transport was thrown into chaos with hundreds of cancelled flights leaving tens of thousands of passengers stranded at airports across Japan.

Most rail services were halted and several highways were closed in Kyushu while bullet-train services between Fukuoka and Osaka were suspended as the typhoon roared north to the western part of the main island of Honshu.

Police said they recovered

the body of 30-year-old woman who was swept out to sea in Okinawa Tuesday while a second death was reported by police in Ehime prefecture on the island of Shikoku.

Tokyo Broadcasting System Inc. said a third death was reported in Kyushu in the afternoon when a building collapsed on a farmer while Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) said five people had been killed.

In Okinawa, a rescue vessel was meanwhile still searching for one of two American Marines who were spotted drifting in the sea the same day, a Maritime Safety Agency official said. The other was rescued Tuesday.

Rescuers were also searching for a 24-year-old man who went snorkelling on the island Wednesday, police said.

The typhoon hit Kyushu after travelling in a northeasterly direction along the East China Sea at about 25 kilometres an hour, the Meteorological Agency said. The agency predicted up to 500 millimetres of rain in Kyushu as well as Shikoku and western Honshu.

The typhoon, the 12th to strike Japan this season, had brought heavy rains and winds to Kyushu early Wednesday morning, paralysing air and land traffic.

Almost 500 flights by six airlines were suspended with at least 42,000 passengers affected, NHK said.

Police said a 500-tonne cargo ship was badly damaged in waters off Kagoshima Wednesday morning and that all nine crew members had been rescued.

On Tuesday, a Belize-registered freighter was shipwrecked three kilometres off Amami Island.

All 10 crew members of the 342-tonne Ocean Brave — nine Indonesians and one South Korean — were safely rescued, a Maritime Safety Agency spokesman said.

In a separate incident, police said a fishing vessel sank in Okinawa.

The typhoon was expected to move north over western Honshu Wednesday evening before veering towards the northeast part of Honshu Thursday morning, Meteorological Agency officials said.



Foreigners and Burundians wait late Aug. 13 inside Bujumbura Airport for tickets on the last two international flights out of Burundi following the imposition of a strict economic embargo by east African nations. Some 400 people boarded the two Sabena planes bound for Brussels (Reuters photo)

Runway robbers net \$800,000 in France

PERPIGNAN, France (AFP) — Armed robbers who held up a plane at an airport in southern France made off with an estimated four million francs (\$800,000), police said Wednesday.

The raiders, who appeared to be well-informed about the contents of the plane's cargo hold, got away with 27 kilograms of banknotes taken from the Airbus A320 in the raid Tuesday evening at Perpignan Airport near the Spanish border.

The meticulously-executed holdup was believed to have been one of the most audacious in French criminal history, but the haul was certainly not one of the biggest.

Perpignan Assistant Prosecutor Robert Chelles, in charge of the inquiry, appealed for witnesses who saw the plane land to come forward.

The robbers, masked and carrying weapons reportedly including machine guns, pounced as the Air Inter Europe flight landed at Perpignan-Rivesaltes Airport from Paris with some 170 passengers on board.

As it taxied along the runway, they pulled up in front of the plane in a number of vehicles, including a transit van, and unfurled a large banner telling the pilot to "cut the engines and open the holds."

"According to a journalist who was on board the plane, cited by the daily Liberation, pilot Vincent Roy immediately complied, while telling passengers to return to their seats."

"Ladies and gentlemen, stay calm. A number of men are interested in what we have on board. And since they are armed, we must wait," he was cited as telling the surprised passengers.

The hold-up itself lasted barely three or four minutes. The men — reported to number between four and seven — went straight to a hold underneath the plane at the rear and opened it themselves manually.

Mr. Chelle said the attackers had apparently been in a crowd of by-standers which habitually collects to watch aircraft taking off and landing.

The consignments of cash of which the pilot and cabin crew were aware was destined for security firm Brink's. The robbers opened the hold and quickly transferred the money to a waiting van.

They then sped off, barely giving time for airport security to be alerted. A standard emergency procedure was implemented, but by Wednesday morning there was no sign of them.

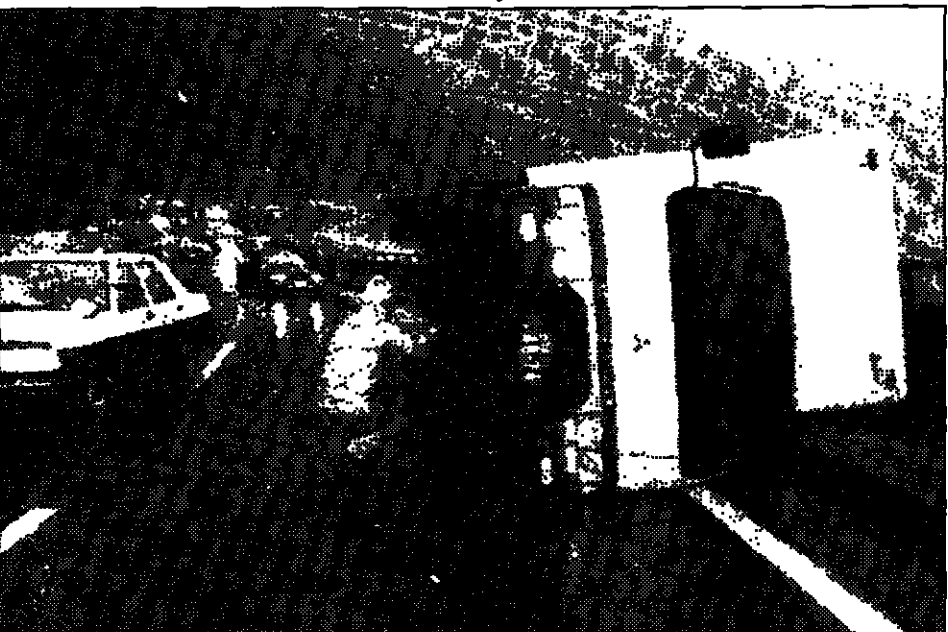
Two vehicles were abandoned near a gate where they made their getaway. Investigators said that the gate was the furthest away from the airport terminal, and could not be seen from the control tower because of trees.

During the raid there was no time for panic, despite concerns about terrorism fuelled by last year's wave of bomb attacks across France, according to the Liberation account.

"People remained calm. One girl burst into tears, but in general there was no panic," said one passenger.

For some the incident recalled scenes at Marseille Airport, just up the coast from Perpignan, in December 1994 when Algerian hijackers held a plane load of passengers at gunpoint before being killed by elite French commandos.

The passengers were eventually let off the plane 45 minutes behind schedule. The plane remained on the tarmac for three hours, before eventually returning as scheduled to Paris late in the evening.



A truck lies knocked over by fierce winds caused by Typhoon Kirk in Kagoshima, on Japan's southern island of Kyushu Wednesday. The typhoon swept onto the island Wednesday with torrential rains and winds of 210kph (131mph), forcing hundreds of flight and ferry cancellations at the peak of Japan's summer holiday season (Reuters photo)

Sri Lanka army digs in near rebel-held town

COLOMBO (R) — The army said Wednesday it was digging in on the outskirts of a rebel-held town in northern Sri Lanka as Tamil guerrillas continued to target security forces in sneak attacks elsewhere.

An army statement said troops were "in the process of consolidating their defence" in newly captured territory outside the town of Kilinochchi.

"No major incidents were reported (in the area) on Aug. 13," it said.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels killed two policemen in the northern town of Jaffna Tuesday and a civil defence worker in eastern Polonnaruwa district, it said.

There has been no news from the LTTE about the northern battle for the past three days. Government troops launched an assault apparently aimed at taking Kilinochchi on July 26.

In Vavuniya, the government-held frontline town 215 kilometres north of Colombo, officials said the army was planning to send more food trucks for thousands of starving civilians.

The army lifted its three-week old blockade on the north Monday, sending in 10 trucks of food, mainly wheat flour. "Food shipments to the north will continue, until and unless we see a new development that will prompt us (to halt the shipments)," a senior government official said.

Colombo let 29 trucks with food into the rebel-controlled Wanni region Tuesday to feed thousands of Tamil refugees. The food was sent despite government accusations that the rebels, who are fighting for independence in the island's north and east, were taking the food and letting civilians go hungry.

Fighting stops in Grozny but ceasefire status remains unclear

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechen rebels and Russian troops brought a halt to eight days of bloody battles in central Grozny Wednesday amid uncertainty as to whether a ceasefire announced by the rebels the day before was in effect.

The two sides carried out a prisoner exchange, the first since a new bout of fighting erupted last week, and dozens of ill and wounded civilians were evacuated from

Grozny, but there were reports of shooting incidents elsewhere and a deadly Russian air raid on a column of refugees fleeing the capital.

AFP correspondents said the firing stopped in Grozny's central districts around 12:30 p.m. (0830 GMT), in line with what the separatists said Tuesday was an accord reached between the two sides.

A rebel spokesman said the ceasefire, to take effect

at noon (0800 GMT), had been agreed in talks Tuesday between the commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, and his rebel counterpart Aslan Maskhadov.

However Gen. Pulikovskiy said in Moscow, after several contradictory reports on the truce, that he had not formally agreed to a ceasefire, simply ordering his troops not to open fire

unless attacked, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

"My order to open fire only in response remains in force," he said.

He added that the rebels were continuing to shoot at Russian soldiers in four parts of the city and had besieged a 12-storey building where several soldiers had sought refuge.

Russian army sources said a new meeting with rebel representatives was due later in the day to discuss implementation of the agreement not to fire unless attacked. The meeting would be held between the villages of Start Atagi and Novy Atagi, in the same region south of Grozny where Tuesday's meeting was held.

The rebels meanwhile said that at least 10 civilians were killed in a Russian air raid on a column of refugees fleeing the capital only minutes after the ceasefire went into effect.

Rebel spokesman Movladi Udogov said it was not clear whether Russian warplanes or helicopters were responsible for the rocket attack, which occurred near the village of Gikalov, 10 kilometres south of Grozny.

"Helicopters are carrying out a rocket attack on the same village at this very moment," Udogov said, interviewed by telephone around 12:40 p.m. (0840 GMT). It was impossible to verify the report.

Mr. Udogov said earlier that Commander Maskhadov had told his troops to stop shooting at 8:00 a.m., four hours before the ceasefire went into effect.

"We will stick to our word, we will stop firing," he added. "If the Russians want to continue shooting then we will fire back, but we would have clearly shown who wants war and who wants peace."

The truce was aimed at ending eight days of bitter fighting in Grozny in which hundreds of soldiers and civilians have been killed.

Dozens of sick and wounded civilians were evacuated by bus to Shali, 30 kilometres southeast of Grozny, to receive medical aid, the pro-Russian Chechen government said, quoted by ITAR-TASS.



Chechen refugees ride in the back of a truck escaping from fighting in Grozny. Hope of a respite for the people of Grozny from eight days of bitter fighting appeared to be dashed Wednesday when the Russian army denied it had agreed a ceasefire with Chechen rebel forces (Reuters photo)



A Chechen girl, wounded during a Russian helicopter attack as she was escaping from Grozny, lies in a hospital in Urus-Martan, a town close to the capital of the breakaway republic. Russian troops fought fierce battles with Chechen rebels but the two sides agreed a truce, starting across the region at midday Wednesday, to evacuate hundreds of wounded civilians from Grozny (Reuters photo)

Nuclear pact crumbles in face of India veto threat

GENEVA (R) — Western nations tried Wednesday to keep alive a global nuclear test-ban treaty in the face of an Indian pledge to veto the landmark accord.

Diplomats said opposition from India, and lately Iran, meant a negotiating committee meeting later in the day would fail to endorse the pact for final approval Thursday by the full conference on disarmament.

Stephen Ledogar, U.S. disarmament ambassador, told reporters: "I have the impression that the committee is fairly deadlocked about the way ahead."

The pact, to prohibit all nuclear explosions, appeared to be crumbling after more than two-and-a-half years of negotiations — barring a last-minute political breakthrough.

Diplomats said chances were slim for the 61-nation Geneva forum this week to adopt and formally send the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) for signature in New York.

There is no formal deadline for clinching a pact. Some delegates suggest extending talks through next week or even until the end of the current session in mid-September.

Some countries still wanted to submit the draft text for approval at a plenary session of the conference Thursday, which could force India to fulfil a threatened veto.

Other delegates feared setting a dangerous precedent which might prove fatal to the pact and ultimately the Geneva body.

India, an avowed champion of disarmament, says it will not sign the current

draft as it fails to commit the five declared nuclear powers to a timetable for eliminating their nuclear weapons.

One idea was to seek a procedural manoeuvre whereby a small group of member states of the full conference would bypass the Geneva body and still get the pact to the U.N. General Assembly at its next session opening on Sept. 17.

However, if an unapproved text is submitted to the 185-member U.N. Assembly, it could be doomed from the start by wider opposition from non-aligned countries, diplomats said.

The "ad hoc" negotiating committee chaired by Dutch Ambassador Jaap Ramaker, arranged to meet later (1300 GMT).

One Western diplomat said: "The treaty text is not going out from the ad hoc committee. That finally sank in last night when the Indian ambassador said it four times."

"The next step will be in the conference plenary," he added.

"But any way you cut it there is no point anymore. We do not have a consensus on this thing."

Top Western envoys, including those from Britain, France and the United States — all nuclear powers — met allies including Japan and Australia to discuss tactics before the meeting.

Under a compromise formula, the committee would send a "factual report" on its work to the conference, but without attaching the treaty text to it.

S. Korean police storm campus to end protest

SEOUL (R) — South Korean riot police, backed by helicopters and armoured vehicles, stormed a Seoul campus Wednesday to break up an outlawed festival calling for reunification with Communist North Korea.

Witnesses said thousands of riot police entered Yonsei University in western Seoul to disperse about 2,000 students.

Police fired tear gas from nine helicopters hovering over the campus while several armoured vehicles mounted with tear gas launchers spearheaded the push into Yonsei.

"We had to bring in a bulldozer to break through the barricade set up by students at the gate of the campus," a police spokesman told reporters.

Masked students set fire to about 50 tyres near the gate to stop police and a fire engine was brought to put out the blaze, witnesses said.

"We had secured an arrest warrant for masterminds of the illegal rally," the spokesman said. "The warrant also allowed us to seize petrol bombs, iron pipes, banners and other materials used for protests."

"We dispersed the students and withdrew," he added, without giving the number of arrests.

South Korea, which seeks detente before discussing reunification with Pyongyang, has outlawed the festival. Seoul officials said the students supported North Korean propaganda.

The police action followed several hours of pitched battles between

about 1,000 students and police outside the campus, the witnesses said.

Police had blocked the students from marching towards the border with North Korea, where about 750 North Koreans rallied for reunification of the Korean peninsula, divided at the end of World War II.

Police said about 18,000 riot police had been deployed outside university campuses and along the road leading to the border to stop students from heading north.

An estimated 7,000 students gathered at several Seoul campuses and tried to join students at Yonsei, about 40 kilometres from the border, police said.

At the border village of Panmunjom, North Koreans wearing white shirts and white caps held up their fists, sang songs and chanted slogans urging the two Koreas to unify, witnesses said.

They also wore red sashes across their shoulders carrying slogans "Korea is one" and "unity of our race."

Two South Korean students who went to the Communist North last Saturday via Berlin attended the rally at Panmunjom, the only crossing point along the demilitarized zone set up as a buffer zone at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Ryu Sae-Hong of Chosun University and Do Chong-Hwa of Yonsei University, members of Hancheon-gryon, a nationwide council of radical university students, demanded that the South guarantee the safety of North Koreans trying to visit the South.

12 killed in shooting at Pakistan Islamic party rally

KARACHI (AFP) — Twelve people were killed and 9 were wounded Wednesday when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a rally staged here by a Sunni fundamentalist party, police and hospital sources said.

Police said the assailants opened fire with automatic weapons from a passing car on several hundred activists of the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) who were heading toward the mausoleum of Pakistan's founding father Mohammed Ali Jinnah on the country's Independence Day.

Eight bodies arrived in the city's Basi Shabheed hospital, while another two were taken to Jinnah Hospital, doctors said. An 11th man later died of his injuries, and the condition of several more was serious, they said.

Sources reported later that the 12th victim died in hospital.

Police said the gunmen fled after spraying the crowd with fire.

A senior police official linked the killing to sectarian friction between religious militants.

The incident followed the killing of four Shi'ite Muslims in Punjab province in the past two weeks. The Punjab police had blamed the militant Sunni group for the killings.

The crowd stampeded as they heard the crackle of gunfire, witnesses said. People ran for shelter as victims lay on the road in pools of blood, they said.

"The firing was intense," an area resident told AFP by telephone. "First I thought some youths were exploding crackers to celebrate Independence Day."

"After several bursts, I peeped from the window of



Volunteers carry the body of a man who was killed at an Independence Day rally after gunmen opened fire on a militant Sunni Muslim procession in the Pakistani city of Karachi Wednesday. Eleven people were killed and eight were wounded in the attack (Reuters photo)

my house. I saw people running. Their clothes were stained with blood."

Tariq Madani, information secretary of the SSP, blamed the attack on militants of the rival Shi'ite party, Tehreek-e-Jafaria Pakistan (TJP).

"They are our bitterest rivals. This was an act of revenge on their part."

"This is an attempt to trigger sectarian violence by our rivals," Mr. Madani said, calling for immediate arrest of the killers.

He said the attack followed a police crackdown in Punjab in which some 250 SSP activists had been arrested since last month.

On Independence Day, thousands of people visit

the mausoleum, which is located about two kilometres from the TJP headquarters and a Shi'ite mosque.

Allama Hasan Turabi, the provincial head of TJP, denied the SSP charges and said his party was not responsible for the attack.

"We have always condemned this form of violence. Even when 20 of our own people were killed last year, we did not retaliate. We want peace," he told AFP.

"This attack was carried out by someone who wants to see Karachi's recently acquired peace destroyed," Mr. Turabi said. "We condemn the attack and wholeheartedly call for the punishment of those responsible."

Karachi is troubled by political, ethnic and sectarian violence which has claimed more than 2,000 lives since January last year.

At least 20 people were shot dead on Feb. 25, in attacks on two Shi'ite mosques, while seven members of a Sunni family were massacred by unidentified gunmen.

Twelve people were killed later on March 20, when a bomb blast rocked a Shi'ite mosque.

Both the SSP and the TJP blamed each other for the killings.

Wednesday's incident came after relative calm in the city.

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State wins debate

POLITICAL MATHEMATICIANS calculated yesterday that only 29 out of the 80 members of the Lower House of Parliament have in fact supported the government's decision to lift, totally, subsidies on bread prices (even within the compensation scheme that was drawn up and announced last week). If you overlook the absence of five members from, and consider the boycott by 23 deputies of, yesterday's session, the mathematicians say, you end up with the 52 deputies who were actually present in the chamber when the vote took place. Out of those, 23 voted for the resolution calling on the government to renegotiate its decision which leaves only 29 deputies who did not oppose the government. When taking into consideration that there are 22 deputies in the Cabinet, that would leave seven non-minister deputies who directly or implicitly supported lifting the subsidies.

How, with this in mind, can the government live with the decision it has taken, considering also that it is an unpopular move as far as the country as a whole is concerned, the mathematicians ask.

Good question indeed. But whether it can or has to be answered by none other than the government, and at any time soon, cannot be certain.

What is certain is that the prime minister and his team have scored against the opposition in Parliament, if only because their opponents, assuming they were serious in the first place, failed to play their own cards well. Witness in this regard how the absence of the 23-member "total opposition" bloc helped the government defeat the House's own motion to renegotiate the deal.

It is indeed difficult at this stage to speculate on which shape the government-Parliament relationship will take until at least early December, when the House reconvenes in a regular session and it becomes possible for the deputies to call for a vote of confidence in the Kabariti team. What is not speculation, though, is that there is no majority in the House today against the government, and that both authorities have to restart joint work with the higher interests of the country in mind and at heart.

The 23 deputies, who boycotted Wednesday's session, already realise that nobody will benefit from paralysing or attempting to hinder the work of the House, just as they cannot afford to withhold their own contribution to the debates.

This can be said in all confidence in fact since it is apparent and clear to all of us that the opposition has been truly responsible in tackling the "bread" issue even though they have been vociferous at times, cynical and posturing at others.

More importantly, the opposition deputies can capitalise on the speech the prime minister gave during yesterday's session in which he pledged his government's continued fight against corruption, nepotism and waste.

It is a foregone conclusion that the whole debate over the issue of lifting bread and fodder subsidies has been an extremely useful and positive exercise in democracy. This is an indication of the level of maturity that we have reached in our democratisation process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN THE ongoing controversy concerning bread subsidies, a great deal of people, including members of the opposition in Parliament, are demanding that the government investigate administrative and financial corruption cases, said a writer for Al Dustour Wednesday. In the public view, influential officials who may be involved in unethical abuses of power are responsible for the economic crisis as well as the country's heavy debt burden, and are consequently responsible for recurrent deficits in the state's fiscal budget, said Fakhri Kawa. The government has openly declared war on corruption and reiterated that it will deal severely with such cases. Therefore since the government's desires must be akin to the desire of the Parliament and thus to the public at large, nothing should stand in the way of the government's opening investigation into corruption cases, holding those responsible to account for their actions and returning any "stolen" funds to the state treasury. The writer said that the feeling of the public is that Jordanian citizens, especially those who are bound to suffer from the government's new subsidy cuts, should not be forced to pay for crimes committed by a handful of malleasants who abuse their authority and may be responsible for many of the country's economic ills.

A WRITER for Al Rai stated his opposition to the proposed two-day weekend in Jordan as potentially harmful to the country's economy. Fahed Fanek opined that a two-day weekend would decrease production in a country whose production is already too low and which is accorded too many holidays as is. By working a five-day week, Jordan will observe a total of 129 holidays, working only 65 per cent of the total number of days in a year. Also by taking an additional holiday, Jordanians will be cut off from the rest of the world for four days weekly (instead of three) as other countries observe Saturdays and Sundays (as their weekend), noted the writer. It is true that the industrialised nations take a two-day weekend but they choose to do so only when they became industrialised, producing abundant goods unlike Jordan whose workers produce far less given six working days. Furthermore, he said, extended hours in a five-day working week, may deprive those Jordanians who choose to work two jobs each day and with subsequent negative consequences to their income.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Teaching and education: Restoring the profession's pivotal role

I BELIEVE that many of our educational establishments — both at the school and university level and in the private as well as public sector — have not yet succeeded in striking a balance between teaching on the one hand and education on the other. In the vast majority of our educational establishments, more (much more) is happening with respect to the former than the latter.

By "teaching," we essentially mean the process of communicating information or knowledge pertaining to the various disciplines or subjects of study to the students. By "education," we mean something remarkably different. Education refers to the process of forming attitudes, of nourishing moral values, and of influencing behaviour. While teaching aims to supply students with facts of sorts (at times skills), education aims at character building.

Teaching is important. Students need to know, for lack of knowledge is ignorance. In today's world, in particular, which is known as the age of "information revolution," the individual is expected to be *apply aware* of what goes on around him, in his own specific sphere as well as in other (related and unrelated) spheres. But students also need to be educated, especially in our part of the world where the family is not fulfilling the fundamental task of bringing its members up effectively and reliably.

There is what we may call an information or knowledge problem in our society, where many people do not read and are not curious to pursue facts enthusiastically and aggressively. Most people would rather watch a soap opera on television or sit doing nothing for hours than watch a programme on wildlife in Asia or read a book. This reflects itself, negatively and acutely, in the absence of facts and figures in much of our formal and informal discourse. What do we know about democracy, for example? Precisely and accurately, that is, and not generally and vaguely. What do we know about our environment, our economy, our history, our religion, etc. — aside from

hearsay?

But there is also a problem (a more serious one) with applying knowledge and putting information to good use. Many people know they should not litter, for example, but they do. They know that removing a stone from the street is an act of piety and a duty, but they do not do it. They know that our region is in dire need of water and that they should economise, but they waste a great deal of it.

Teaching and education are, of course, often (may be even always) interdependent. When one teaches, one is clearly educating, and vice versa. Nevertheless, the two are, at some level, distinctly different activities and require different skills and approaches. Education is also broader and more encompassing than teaching.

The problem with most of our "educational" institutions (notice the misnomer here) is that they have confined themselves almost exclusively to the task of teaching. As is well-known, our Ministry of Education is literally called "The Ministry of Education and Teaching" — "Education" coming before "Teaching." But as is well-known also, much of its work pours in the channel of "Teaching" rather than that of "Education." There is education to be sure, but a) it is not today as it was in the past (say, three decades ago when the school played a much more important role in shaping the student's personality than today — regardless of how happy or unhappy we are about the correctness or incorrectness of the methods it used to achieve such noble end) and b) it is by no means at the level and of the calibre and quality that we desire. Most "teachers" are simply "teach-ers" or "instruct-ors," not educators. At many of our private schools (though certainly not all) the picture is not that much different.

It is interesting that we use the word "educator" when we refer to our teachers today either only in our highly-rhetorical, highly embellished speeches on the various celebratory occasions or pejoratively and cynically when we make

fun of certain teachers.

What is said about our schools can also be said about our universities. Education, in reality, receives very little attention. Most of what we do is communicate information to students. Outside the classroom, not much happens — except to a small minority of students.

There are many reasons why our educational institutions have neglected (in some cases entirely abandoned) their central role, among which is the overall deterioration in the education profession. It may also be that it is easier for our institutions to teach than to educate.

What do we do? The first thing is to have our educational institutions themselves make it a priority (and not a mere lip-service) to educate. Once this is done, general and specific plans, steps, projects can be worked out to make sure that our students not only learn but also appreciate what they learn and learn to apply. Ample attention needs to be given to extracurricular activities, to the active involvement of students in the life of the institution, and to the quality of students' attitude and behaviour. There is a need for more dialogue between the institution and the students (one which encourages them to express what they feel freely), so as to get at the roots of the problem, as well as more firmness and strictness in the translation of our educational ideals.

Today, more so than at any other time before, we need from our institutions to play their educational role effectively. It is indeed a big loss and a big shame that the so many years of schooling fail to make a positive impact on the student's attitude and behaviour. Many people — the rich as much as the poor, the learned as much as the illiterate, in eastern Amman as much as in western Amman — still throw trash from their car windows unhesitatingly and unashamedly? Does not this say something about our educational process?



Turkey's Erbakan in East-West tightrope act

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) predominantly Muslim member, is moving closer to neighbours Iran and Iraq in a difficult tightrope act between East and West that threatens to make no one happy.

Turkey's first Islamist premier, Necmettin Erbakan, went to Iran on his first major foreign visit and made coinciding overtures to Iraq, another country marked for isolation by the United States.

A \$23 billion gas deal with Iran, signed on Monday in Tehran in Mr. Erbakan's presence, has been criticised by Washington. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Tuesday there was a risk that the deal could violate a new U.S. law punishing companies that invest \$40 million or more in energy projects in Iran or Libya in a year.

The gas agreement had been under discussion with Iran for years by a succession of governments and enjoys support beyond Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party.

Mr. Erbakan rebuffed the United States, saying Turkey would not permit third country interference in its foreign policy.

Even Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, the leader of a pro-Western conservative party which is the junior partner in Mr. Erbakan's government and who has repeatedly countered his announcements in public, came out in support of the deal.

"We are supportive of the natural gas agreement... Let our good relations with Iran continue," she said in remarks carried by Turkey's Anatolian news agency on Monday, adding that Iran in turn should not support Kurdish separatist rebels fighting Ankara.

Although the agreement with Iran would supply Turkey with natural gas for 23 years, political analysts said the benefits of upsetting Western allies for better ties with Tehran were far from clear.

Turkish security officials often say that Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas attack Turkish border posts from Iranian soil. But Mr. Erbakan has yet to announce that he has persuaded Tehran to tighten the two countries' common borders against incursions into Turkey by the PKK.

"Their interests and intentions are conflicting. Iran has interests of its own which sour the relationship," said Dogu Ergil, a professor studying Turkey's ties with the Middle East.

On the other side of the equation, Mr. Erbakan has failed to annul a recent military training agreement with Israel as demanded by Iran and many other Islamic countries. He had promised to scrap it before he came to power.

Two Turkish ministers are in Baghdad to improve ties.

Mr. Ergil said Arab countries feared that Turkey might try to dominate the region as did the Ottoman empire it replaced.

"Welfare is pro-Eastern in the sense that it wants Turkey's leadership of the Muslim World," Mr. Ergil said. "It has dreams of Ottoman grandeur. Islam is a leverage for imperial aims and much of the Middle East is not comfortable with that."

The liberal Yeni Yuzul said in an editorial: "One theory is that Erbakan is seeking to force a serious rift in Turkey's ties with the West. In such a crisis, Erbakan will try and adopt a stance of dignity, honour, nationalism and not bowing to big powers which will score points domestically."

Whatever its motive, Mr. Erbakan's Middle East policy appears to have upset Mrs. Ciller, who has stayed in Ankara during Mr. Erbakan's 10-day trip to Iran and Asia, and the secular establishment.

Diplomats say the foreign ministry, which prides itself as being a bastion of secularism, is very unhappy about Mr. Erbakan and his party's apparent take-over of foreign policy.

But Western diplomats say it would take more to separate Turkey, with its long-standing ties with the West and its strategic geopolitical position, from the Western camp.

"These are gestures, partly for domestic consumption, that are worrying signs of his (Mr. Erbakan's) possible intentions but it will take more than that to break Turkey from the West," a diplomat said.

Free trade? Don't sell us that

By Sam Dillon

MEXICO CITY — Not so long ago, Rosa Molina felt she was doing pretty well in life. But now, like many Mexicans, she feels as if she's been mugged by a 19-month economic crisis. Her once-sunny outlook has withered to a brooding cynicism.

Ms. Molina's monthly salary as a stitcher in a garment factory rose during the early 1990s to about \$700 a month, and she even began thinking about buying a modest house. Then, in December 1994, the government devalued the peso by 40 per cent and soon Ms. Molina was laid off. A single mother in her 20s, she searched for work for six months before pleading her way into another factory — at \$160 a month.

"Now they pay me whatever they want," Ms. Molina says bitterly, pulling her 3-year-old son close to her skirt during an interview in Mexico City's central plaza. In recent months, she has been nursing her anger over Mexico's economic calamity. Like many of her compatriots, she suspects that Mexico's association with the United States and Canada in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is one cause of her downward slide. Meanwhile, she has followed with fury the reports that Raúl Salinas, the brother of the former president, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, amassed more than \$120 million during his brother's tenure and that his partners included some of Mexico's wealthiest oligarchs.

"It's frightening, because all this thievery is just sinking our country further," Ms. Molina said.

In other words, disgust with corruption and with NAFTA are intertwined in her mind: Like many Mexicans, ever cynical about their officials, she is skeptical of any deals they make.

Opinion polls show that Ms. Molina's bruised perceptions about her country's economy, the job market and how NAFTA and political graft may be hurting both are shared by many Mexicans. And it matters little to them that Mexican and American officials and economists believe something quite different: That the country has begun a robust recovery, that the scandals are having little effect on the marketplace, and that NAFTA has in fact helped Mexico.

The case for NAFTA

Experts, for example, make a convincing case that Mexico's misery has been caused not by NAFTA but by the government's clumsy devaluation of the peso in December 1994 and by the subsequent recession. In that context, the trade treaty, which was preceded by reforms opening Mexico to foreign investment, seems almost certainly to have saved Mexico from meltdown. When the crisis came, the Clinton administration assembled a \$50 billion package of emergency loans, offered by the United States and other governments, which stabilised the peso, partly because NAFTA had irrevocably tied Mexico's economy to the United States. (Mexico eventually borrowed \$12.5 billion from the United States, about three-quarters of which it has repaid).

From the first months of the crisis early last year, tire, auto and other manufacturers, vegetable farmers and other stricken Mexicans took advantage of the peso devaluation and the reduced trade barriers to greatly increase north-bound exports; Mexico has enjoyed hefty trade surpluses with the United States ever since. (During the first four months of this year, the surplus was \$2.6 billion). The surging exports have helped create new jobs to replace some of those lost. So it is clear that most

Mexicans would be in far worse shape today without NAFTA.

But that's isn't how many Mexicans see it, among them truckers and other businessmen who complain that the treaty has threatened them with overwhelming American competition. A national sounding taken in June by the Mexico City newspaper Reforma found that 67 per cent of Mexicans believed that the government was having little or no success with the free-trade treaty. That marks a considerable shift from 1993, before the treaty took effect, when Mexicans were vastly more hopeful than Americans, or Canadians about the pact.

Today citizens in all three countries view the treaty with suspicion.

Mexican views have grown gloomier on other topics as well. Reforma's June poll found that 86 per cent of Mexicans believe that the economy has either not improved, or has actually worsened, since the dust settled after the crash last year; 64 per cent expect it to remain mired at its current level or deteriorate further in 1997.

Grumpiness reigns

It is also a common view that wanton looting of the public treasury by the last government helped plunge the country into crisis, and eight out of 10 Mexicans believe that the current president, Ernesto Zedillo, is making "little or no progress at all" against corruption, the poll indicates. "The Mexican people were far more optimistic during the last presidency," said Rafael Giménez, Reforma's 31-year-old chief pollster. "Now they're grumpy and unhappy."

The contrast between these dispirited public sentiments and the views voiced by officials here and in Washington could hardly be more dramatic. Mr. Zedillo and Treasury Secretary Guillermo Ortiz have repeatedly said Mexico's economy is showing signs of mounting vigour, although Mr. Ortiz acknowledged that "it will be at least a few years before we're able to reach the levels of consumption that we had before the crisis."

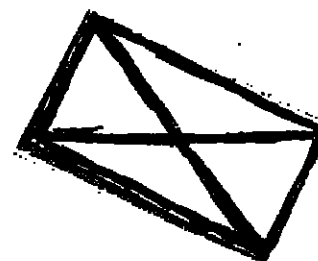
In an interview, the United States ambassador to Mexico, James Jones, insisted that the corruption scandals were not slowing growth, especially as measured by investment. Direct foreign investment — money spent to build factories or otherwise expand businesses, as opposed to indirect investments in the money markets — dropped to \$5.5 billion in 1995 from a peak of \$8 billion in 1994, but is rebounding and is likely to hit \$10 billion this year, Mr. Jones said. "The ongoing investigation of Raúl Salinas does not appear to have affected foreign direct investment," he said.

On this issue there is considerable debate, however. "In several recent cases the effects of the political scandals have been straight-forward," said Jonathan Heath, an economist in Mexico City. Last month a string of Mexico's most eminent businessmen acknowledged that they had conducted murky financial transactions, still under investigation, with Raúl Salinas, who is in jail here on murder and illegal enrichment charges. Shortly thereafter, Mexico's stock market took a huge tumble, and several of the companies hurt most were those led by Mr. Salinas's newly revalued partners, Mr. Heath said.

"There's been an increase in investors' perception of risk, derived from the scandals and other things, which cause people to ask how events in Mexico will all turn out," Mr. Heath said.

The New York Times

Weekender



Jordan Times, Thursday, August 15, 1996 A

Society on the Move

Mid-summer season warms up travel plans

Local press reports, mainly tabloid, and two weeks of speculation have been pointing to changes involving the Office of Her Majesty Queen Noor and that of the Prime Minister. The reports centred of the possible consideration of the promotion of Prime Ministry Office Director Salim Kheir to Director of the Queen's Office at Ma'wa Palace. Where such a move might take the Queen's current office director, Ambassador Adnan al-Houni, no one knows, or no one is saying. All the reported rest, we are told is just conjecture at this point.

TAKING STOCK: Amman Financial Market Director Umaya Toukan is tipped to become Jordan's ambassador to the European Union and Belgium and non-resident ambassador to Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Once the appointment is made official, Mr. Toukan, who for the past five years has headed the AFM, is expected to head to his new post in Brussels in about two months. Who will succeed him at the ever-expanding Amman stock market is still in question. According to one theory, however, Dr. Taleb Rifai, director of the Investment Promotion Corporation, might double as both IPC head and AFM director.

OFF AGAIN: Here only two short years, the U.S. embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Beecroft has been given another mission. It will be back to Europe for Mr. Beecroft whose posting prior to Amman was to the U.S. mission to NATO headquarters in Brussels. Mr. Beecroft has been appointed special U.S. envoy to Bosnia. He and his wife Mete will leave Amman at the end of August and move back into their home in Washington, D.C. From there Mr. Beecroft will take up his assignments in long, temporary duties to Bosnia. Mrs. Beecroft who while in Jordan worked as an administrative staff member of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation on a large U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) project, will most likely resume her career at the Department of State. The rather

sudden change has not yet resulted in the naming of Mr. Beecroft's successor. We'll just have to wait and see. We do know, however, that the Beecrofts will be sorely missed by the many friends they leave behind.

BACK TO SEOUL: Also leaving Jordan after a two-year tour of duty is Korean First Secretary and Consul, Min Kyong-Ho. Mr. Min will be heading back to base in late August with fond memories of Jordan and Jordanians and of his short stay here. "While regretting this early departure, I am proud to say that I fully enjoyed living in this beautiful country with its charming people," he says. "Our contacts have served to cement further the already existing strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples." All the best wishes to the Mins from all of their friends in Jordan.

MOVES IN THE NEWS ROOM: At Reuters news agency, it is said that when one person is reassigned to a posting, that single event starts off a chain reaction. Within the end of summer changes slated for the Amman bureau of the international agency is that of Bureau Chief Jack Redden. Mr. Redden will head to Nicosia, to become chief sub-editor on the Middle East and Africa desk. He says although his three years in Jordan were for the most part exciting, it was time for a change. He's thankful the move comes during the summer break so that he and his wife Katherine can get their two boys settled into school and their eight-month-old daughter, who was born in Amman, accustomed to her new surroundings. Mr. Redden expects he will continue to travel much in the region as he did from Amman. His successor is Dominic Evans who has been working at the agency's Cairo office. The Amman office, however, will lose one of its most valuable and experienced correspondents, Rana Sabbagh who is moving to Reuters regional office in Dubai. Ms. Sabbagh, who has been with Reuters

for eight years in the Amman office, will be working in that office which covers the six Gulf Cooperation Council states, plus Iran and Yemen. Her reporting will most likely focus on economics and the political transformations in the Gulf area particularly as concerns the Arab-Israeli peace process. Her job starts Oct. 1, so there is still plenty of time left for her many friends and colleagues, especially from the Jordan Times, where she first launched her career, to say farewell. With so many good-byes we are appreciative of the chance to welcome back old friends: Richard and Fatima Reid who are visiting Jordan at the invitation of HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath. Richard was regional director of UNICEF from 1986 until 1991 and Fatima's dedication to supporting mental health has taken her to various countries in the Middle East and abroad, most currently the Al Ma'wel hospital. Richard finds Amman "prettier than ever, busier than ever" and is moved by a "wonderful rush of nostalgia". We wish them and their daughters a lovely stay.

MARKING A MILESTONE: Middle East Airlines (MEA) celebrates its 50th anniversary and to help mark the occasion, its general sales agent (GSA) Amin Kavar & Sons, the large shipping agency, is throwing a party at the home of Tawfiq Kavar on Aug. 25. This Kavar family tie goes back a long way with MEA — nearly 30 years ago when Gulf-bound MEA flights transited through Agaba, and the Kavar services entrepreneurs would lodge the then Greek crews at their Agaba facilities. MEA has daily round-trip flights between Amman and Beirut with connections to Europe. For those who may be interested, MEA has recently begun a Beirut-Sao Paulo route. According to MEA General Manager Elias Awad, the invitation list for the Aug. 25 reception is nearly 800-strong from the cabinet, other senior public officials, private clients and many, many friends.

MORE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES: Lebanese star Majda Roumi will be back in Amman soon, this time to sing a gala dinner held under the patronage of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, to mark the 50th anniversary of InterContinental Hotels and Resorts. What is even nicer is that all proceeds from the event will go to another organisation celebrating its 50 years — the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). With construction works nearing completion, a date has not yet been confirmed, but the hotel is looking at a date between mid-to end of September. The InterContinental, we're sure, will keep us apprised of future developments in this regard.

IT'S OLÉ TIME: Chico and the Gipsys et la Fiesta Mora, the musical group that formed in the wake of the break up of the Gipsy Kings, are coming to Jordan for three nights of performances starting Aug. 27. Chico et la Fiesta Mora are famous also for their Arabic version of "Yahlu Bina Yahlu." The first performance will be held at the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman. The next night, Aug. 28, there will be a gala dinner performance at the Philadelphia Hotel. This particular night's show will be preceded by two opening acts by Iraqi jazz vocalist Ilham Madfa'i and the Gitano Band. And the final fandango, on Aug. 29, will take place in the mineral rich air of the Dead Sea at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel. The events are being held under the patronage of a long-time fan of flamenco-rock HRH Princess Rania Abdullah, and is being sponsored by Al Qasr Hotel, Pepsi Cola Company, Royal Jordanian and Fiat Car Company among others. The much publicised event is the entertainment fancy of Azam Fakher El Din, assistant manager of Al Qasr Hotel.

Jennifer Hamarnesh

BOOK REVIEW

Brittle republic

Lebanon: A Shattered Country
By Elizabeth Picard
Holmes and Meier, New York and London 1996,
£29.95

THE TITLE may not be inventive, but Lebanon: A Shattered Country is an original and penetrating account of the creation of Lebanon, its social make-up and its contemporary history.

Despite covering all the old ground from the reign of the Druze amirs under the Ottoman Empire to the creation of Greater Lebanon in 1920 and on to the outbreak of civil war in 1975 and its conclusion, the author offers a refreshing account that is both concise and comprehensive. The book really comes into its own by bringing the reader right up-to-date with the current post-war politics of Lebanon and by giving a trenchant evaluation of Lebanon's viability as a political entity.

Picard's assessment of Lebanon's new peace, based on the Taif Accord of 1989 and the ensuing constitutional amendments of the 1990s, gives an excellent insight into the way in which Lebanon's post-war political system contains, still, the seeds of its own downfall. She cites a number of features of the country's post-war political system which highlight how precarious the new peace might be. First and foremost is the way in which the new peace has confirmed and reinforced political sectarianism. A new war-induced notion of communal identity was enshrined in the Taif Accord and in fact serves to empower Syrian hegemony which has been built upon its role as official arbiter of Lebanon's communal conflicts.

Second, in Lebanon's post-war political system, presidential supremacy has been replaced by a triumvirate regime. The president now has to share power with his prime minister and the speaker of parliament, each of whom has the power of veto over the other two. The risk of such a power-sharing arrangement is that it can lead to a political impasse if there is no agreement, with the winner proving to be the one with the closest ties to Damascus, the final arbiter. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's resignation as prime minister — on three separate occasions in the recent past — because of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri's opposition to bullish reconstruction plans is evidence of the dangerous paralysis into which the country can fall.

Lebanon's structural alliance with Syria, confirmed by numerous bilateral accords, is cited as yet another feature of the country's political system. It is clear that Lebanon is firmly entrenched in the Syrian orbit, and one wonders what sort of self-deceiving analysis the Israelis were working on if one of the undeclared aims of the recent Grapes of Wrath military exercise was to drive a wedge between Lebanon and Syria. Syria has manipulated the balance of forces in Lebanon in such a way that its presence in Lebanon has become indispensable, though sorely resented by the Lebanese.

Picard shows that although most Lebanese now recognise that no one group can assert itself over the others, the state is far from being founded upon national consensus. While the inhabitants of consensus democracies such as Switzerland and the Netherlands have a desire to live together, the Lebanese have what the author describes as an "obligation to live together," an obligation which arises neither from idealism nor ideology.

There has been talk recently of a new Lebanese national spirit in the wake of the Grapes of Wrath Operation. Picard's book will come as a sobering and timely reminder to those who believed that Lebanese society had moved beyond the rancour of communitarianism to a wound-licking. It shows Lebanon up, both in the past and at present, as a brittle republic — Middle East International.

Giles Trendle

Bangladesh fights growing drug abuse

By Anis Ahmad
Reuters

DHAKA — Abdul Baset took his first shot of what he called "liquid fire" at the age of 14. Now, five years later, he is injecting himself with Pathedine, a painkiller used in local hospitals, in Dhaka's lush green Suhrawardy Park.

"It keeps me flying," said the 19-year-old, smiling but struggling to keep his eyelids open. "Drugs are my first love."

His friends were already high but still aware that police might charge in, not to take them to prison or lecture them, but to take money in return for allowing the addicts to continue doping undisturbed, addicts said.

"We are always hounded by these greedy eyes," Baset said about the policemen. "But there is no way out."

Health officials say some 300,000 Bangladeshis regularly use drugs, which include Pathedine, hashish, marijuana, cocaine, heroin and Phenidyl syrup smuggled from India.

About one million others take drugs occasional-

ly but risk fast becoming addicts, said Dr. A.A. Quoreshi, secretary-general of the Mukti Lawrence Foundation in Dhaka, one of the country's premier centres for treating drug addicts.

"Drug addiction is increasing at an alarming rate," he told Reuters. "It's high time to do something (to halt the trend) before it's too late," Dr. Quoreshi said.

Dr. Quoreshi and his staff of 38 have treated more than 6,000 addicts since opening his small, 50-bed clinic in 1988.

"We are trying to increase beds and improve facilities as the number of patients is increasing fast," Dr. Quoreshi said.

Patients were seen lying on the floor between rows of beds, and in the corridor.

Dr. Quoreshi said he uses motivation rather than force as the principal method of his treatment.

"While conducting gradual withdrawal from the habit, we organise light entertainment for the addicts, such as a daily musical performance by the patients," he said.

But he said patients who



A young drug addict has a dose of Pathedine injected in his leg by a friend on a sidewalk in the busy Bangladesh capital of Dhaka. Police say thousands of Dhaka residents — young and old, male and female — take drugs regularly (Reuters photo)

are cured and sent home again. Dr. Quoreshi said he had requested more funds

from the European Union, which has helped Mukti expand its structural and clinical facilities.

Dr. Quoreshi in part blames drug addiction on parents who fail to keep their children on the right track. Other major factors that lead to drug addiction include frustration over unemployment, poverty, a disturbed family life and failed love.

Addicts come from all strata of life. They include adults and children, males and females, students, bureaucrats, rickshaw-pullers and truck drivers, doctors at Mukti and other clinics said.

Drug addicts steal from their homes, become involved in robberies or bigger crimes to collect money for drugs that are easily available in Dhaka and in other Bangladeshi cities.

The drugs take an enormous health toll, addicts and officials said. Doctors said many addicts suffered kidney failure, lung problems, liver damage and other complications.

Those who cannot afford a full dose share drugs and needles with

others, despite the risk of contamination. Then they fight for whatever they can grab to eat.

"The throat becomes dry and voice soars after you give a few quick puffs on a cigarette stuffed with hashish," said one journalist who recently kicked the drug habit.

"I used to feel hungry but couldn't eat much. Gradually I lost my health," he told Reuters.

One night last week, Bangladesh's Home (Interior) Minister Rafiqul Islam strolled some of Dhaka's backstreets to see things for himself. He stepped into a drug den, witnessed the sale and purchase of drugs and how they were administered, police said.

As he did not disclose his identity, the addicts told their tales to the minister and complained that Phenidyl, a now-banned cough syrup containing alcohol, was becoming costlier as the government tightened its border with India.

Mr. Islam later told reporters he was alarmed by seeing the "enormity of the drug problem."



A Bangladeshi drug addict takes a deep, long puff on a pipe full of burning hashish at Dhaka's Suhrawardy Park. Health officials say some 300,000 Bangladeshis regularly use drugs, mostly smuggled from India, and around one million others are likely to join the growing army of addicts soon (Reuters photo)

Emma Thompson's award makes Hollywood history

By Jim Kelsey

EMMA THOMPSON, the 38-year-old English actress has created history in Hollywood. She is the first to receive Academy Awards — Oscars — for both acting and screen adaptation.

Her second Oscar was awarded recently by the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences for her screen adaptation of *Sense And Sensibility* in which she plays the leading role of Elinor.

An accomplished and versatile professional, she has amazed movieland's moguls by her ability to write a screenplay that is as dazzling as her smile. Its economy in depicting characters and investing the movie with a graphically concise dramatisation remains true to its 19th-century creator, Jane Austen.

A marvellous illustration of superb screen writing is seen in the opening of *Sense And Sensibility* in which Thompson establishes the plight of the Dashwood family in precise film bites: the film audience knows much about the widowed mother and her three daughters before the opening credits have concluded — a remarkable achievement.

Thompson, who took four years to complete the script, has brought out the comedy as well as the romance and pathos of her favourite author's first novel.

After studying the writer's letters, she came to regard Austen not only as a vivid

observer of family life and rituals but as a wonderful biting satirist, full of irony.

She believes that the elegant commentator was a comedian and although all her books are concerned with ladies in difficult circumstances trying to find a husband, they are also about the social etiquette of the day and the rigorous standards of a genteel society long since vanished. That is the universal appeal of Austen that still fascinates the public today.

Thompson has served her apprenticeship both to academia and the theatre. The daughter of actress Phyllida Law and the late Eric Thompson, a man who created many popular television programmes for children, she began acting with the Cambridge Footlights Revue when she was an undergraduate.

She graduated in English Literature from Newnham College and, as a professional actress, began on television as a comedienne, writing and playing in her own sketches. Her first Oscar was awarded in 1992 for her portrayal of Margaret Schlegel in *Howards End*.

Twice nominated

Thompson was nominated twice in 1993 for her sympathetic, knowing housekeeper in *The Remains Of The Day* and the defence lawyer in *In The Name Of The Father*. More recently

she played Carrington the controversial painter in the movie's version of the notorious Bloomsbury set's ménage à trois, and the witty, acid-mouthed Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*. On the stage she has portrayed numerous Shakespearean heroines with her former husband, Kenneth Branagh.

She also proves to be a humorous raconteur in the diary she published about the making of *Sense And Sensibility*, a beautifully illustrated volume that also includes the shooting script. The book tells, in intimate detail, the full horrors of movie-making, the pre-occupations of the director, the obsessions of the players, camera angles, acting with animals and the backstage boredom of endless takes that the audience never see.

Thompson records: "The beginning of a film is like watching a huge newborn centipede trying to get up on its hundred legs and go for a walk. Keeps tripping up until it's worked out how to coordinate. Any film will take two to three weeks to get into its stride — some never do..."

Hilarious anecdotes

In hilarious anecdotes she captures the near madness of film-making, recording the ups and downs of the shoots as well as the chocolate and alcoholic binges that keep the adrenaline flowing. She recounts how the

Taiwanese director, Ang Lee — unused to British actors or customs — initially began the film with a Buddhist ritual of meditation and exercises for the actors with them massaging each other's "pressure points."

It made 18-year-old Kate Winslet, who plays the pretty and middle Dashwood daughter, scream. Ang, who was used to having no input from the actors, was somewhat surprised to receiving a lot of back chat about interpretation.

The director took to eating pink iced buns for breakfast. He then began teaching everyone 'tai chi' and sending them notes.

One missive to Thompson said: "Endearing smirk please. Don't look so old." Another said: "Try rigorous smirk" that made Emma go purple with effort.

Rock-and-roll apparently liberated the pelvis and to be constantly strapped into tight corsets for 15-hour days not only caused fainting fits but proved almost impossible for the ladies to ride side-saddle. It also changed their walking ability to an 18-century mince.

Marvellous showcase

Although she adheres to Austen's propriety throughout the film, Thompson does depart from the original by allowing Elinor to kiss Edward Ferrars.

Sense And Sensibility is a superb production and a marvellous showcase for



Hugh Grant as Mr. Ferrars and Emma Thompson as Elinor Dashwood in her adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense And Sensibility* that won her a second Oscar

English character actors whose formidable talent bring Austen's remarkable insight into humanity vividly to life. The film looks beautiful as it tours the National Trust's stately mansions set amid the romantic English countryside.

In the hunt for husbands,

Kate Winslet is all youthful beauty as Elinor's impetuous sister, Marianne, who ultimately is taught sense by experience and finishes up on the arm of Alan Rickman (Colonel Brandon).

The men are admirably cast with the Greg Wise as the dashing fortune-hunter John Willoughby; Robert

Hardy, knee-deep in dogs and bonhomie, is a benevolent Sir John Middleton, and Hugh Laurie — whose ominous droll one-liners are delivered with admirable timing to Imelda Staunton as his empty-headed wife.

Thompson is considering starring with Robert Redford in the screen adaptation

of *The Horse Whisperer*, British novelist Nicholas Evans' story about a man who heals horses.

However, her future may not be acting, which she loves, but writing screenplays for which she has an obvious talent, and directing plays and films — LPS Feature.

MGM future: All systems wait

By John Horn
The Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, California — Wild Card looked like an excellent match: Robert Altman, the witty maker of *The Player*, directing Bill Murray, the wacky star of *Groundhog Day*, with filming set to start in several weeks, the movie's producers started securing sets and hiring crew.

Then a French bank said, "no," and the promising MGM baseball movie — like almost everything else at the studio — slammed to a dead stop. Murray and Altman started looking elsewhere for work.

Last month's MGM sale to a group led by billionaire Kirk Kerkorian will surely revitalise the studio, which in the last six years has passed through four owners.

But until the \$1.3 billion sale actually closes, expected in early fall, MGM's well-regarded management team is stuck in celluloid limbo, with scores of movies ready to go, yet no authority to make them.

Wild Card and the Dustin Hoffman movie *Brave Every Day* are among the films MGM hopes to — but can't quite yet — get in front of cameras.

"We have a lot of things at the starting gate, all ready to go," says Mike Marcus, who runs Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's MGM Film Unit.

Marcus has not "green-lit," or approved, a new film all year. John Calley, Marcus' counterpart at MGM's United Artists Unit, says he has been on an 11-month hiatus from making new movies.

"We are in position to get started again once this thing is concluded," Calley says. "The critical event is the company is no longer for

sale." The studio's release slate will be sparse through Christmas, bolstered mostly by movies produced by Rysher Entertainment (Kinpun, the upcoming *House arrest* and *Two Days In The Valley*) and only distributed by MGM.

The studio may earn a small profit this year, but it is currently last among all majors in current market share, claiming 7.2 per cent of all movie tickets sold. There are few MGM releases set for early 1997 or next summer.

When the French bank Credit Lyonnais prepared to sell MGM earlier this year, it stopped pumping new funds into the studio. The bank, which took control of MGM when suspected swindler Giancarlo Parretti defaulted on loans, had little reason to invest in a property it was trying to unload.

"We got caught in the sale," says David Foster, who was going to produce Wild Card, Altman's first major studio film since 1980's *Popeye*.

"The bank said, 'hey, we're selling the company. Why should we be spending money?' so (Wild Card) just sat there."

Assuming the bank approves the sale to the Kerkorian-led investors in the fall, MGM plans to slowly restart its engines. Foster hopes to begin *Julip*, based on the Jim Harrison novella, near year's end for MGM; the 18th James Bond movie should start filming for UA in early 1997; and MGM and UA say they have scores of good film scripts in the works.

Keith Samples, the chief executive officer of Rysher Entertainment, says he is confident MGM can once again be an industry leader.

"I have a very positive feeling about MGM even though Kerpkin has been a little bit of a disappointment," Samples says from the set of the film *A Smile Like Yours*, which he is directing. "MGM was offered — but passed — on the Greg Kinnear film, which Paramount accepted. "Just like any marriage, we've had our bad moments. But I have great respect for those guys," Samples says.

Despite the Wild Card setback, Foster says he looks forward to working at MGM again.

Despite the movie shortage, senior MGM executives say they will not hurry to bring movies into theatres — a dangerous strategy made essential in the wake of Parretti's failed 1990 stewardship.

When MGM Chairman Frank Mancuso, Marcus and Calley arrived in 1993, they found the cupboards literally bare — with the clock ticking. Credit Lyonnais had to sell MGM by 1997 under U.S. banking laws. In the rush to make MGM attractive to buyers, MGM either quickly picked bad projects or occasionally introduced movies clearly hurt by the 100 mph pace.

Michael Keaton's "speechless," for example, arrived in 1994 despite a problematic script and a poor reception from test audiences. "If we had taken the time to reshoot the ending and market the film better, we might have done better on the movie," says Marcus.

Mancuso says MGM has learned from its mistakes. And with no sale pending, the Gone With The Wind studio can afford to be patient.

"There will be a period

when we will be out of the market," Mancuso says. "But we're not going to race. When you try to fill some supply pipeline, that's when you make your worst mistakes."

True of us in 1993 — I think we made our worst mistakes early on. I don't want to rush into anything. I want to do this deliberately."

When MGM is fully operational, Mancuso says, the studio will annually release up to 15 films. He also hopes to exploit tie-ins with Kerkorian's MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

Mancuso notes that MGM's television and home video divisions are healthy, and that the studio is planning several direct-to-video children's animated films. Within a few years, he says, MGM may go public.

Meanwhile, MGM and UA are wooing back actors, writers, directors and agents. Not surprisingly, the creative community has generally avoided the studio for most of 1996 — if MGM's buyer had been anyone other than Kerkorian, that might have meant the end for Mancuso, Marcus and Calley. No filmmaker wanted to make a long-term commitment with what could have been transitory management.

Kerkorian, of course, has owned and sold MGM before — twice. Mancuso says the real estate magnate won't meddle in MGM's operations, and Calley is convinced Kerkorian wants MGM to roar again.

"I personally believe in Kirk Kerkorian with great intensity," Calley says. "Look at his hotel. It's the work of a builder, not a tear-down."

Edinburgh celebrates 50 years as festivals supremo

By Jill Sergeant
Reuters

LONDON — "Born" amid the ruins and disillusion of World War II, the Edinburgh Festival rings up the curtain for the 50th time this month on the largest and most versatile arts jamboree in the world.

For three weeks from Aug. 11 to 31, Edinburgh bustles around the clock with theatre, comedy, opera, film, dance, circus, lectures and music as the international festival and its associate fringe and film festivals cram non-stop entertainment into every corner of the Scottish capital.

What started in 1947 with the lofty aim of commemorating the past and looking with optimism to the future of mankind, has turned into a world showcase that now far outshines the pre-war music festivals of Salzburg and Bayreuth that Edinburgh originally dared to emulate.

As Europe lay smouldering in the bitter aftermath of World War II, a small but determined group of Scottish and English arts and business leaders dreamed of bringing the world together again through music, theatre, dance and opera.

"They were all of them desperately conscious of the possible place of Edinburgh as a lighthouse of cultural survival in a world where, but a few short months before, every human decency seemed on the verge of extinction," wrote Owen Dudley-Edwards in his history of the Edinburgh Festival.

The fringe, which started with eight companies upset at being left out of the 1947 event, has mushroomed into a 1,238-show festival featuring more than 9,000 performers.

With its hundreds of often anarchic, headline-grabbing events in venues ranging from pubs and church halls to a multi-storey car park and an Italian delicatessen, the fringe has dwarfed the international festival.

Its no-vetting, free-for-all policy has in the past opened the doors for a host of comedy stars including

Now firmly established on the artistic world map, the fringe and film festivals that grew up alongside the international festival have put aside their old rivalries for a joint 50th birthday party.

The international festival boasts four world premieres, including a specially-commissioned work by U.S. contemporary dancer-choreographer Mark Morris whose productions have been one of the highlights of recent years.

The music programme opens with Schoenberg's "A Survivor from Warsaw" — reflecting the sentiments of the 1947 festival which was launched with a "Songs of Praise" cathedral service starring soprano Kathleen Ferrier.

The music of Haydn is featured in 18 concerts and international offerings include German theatre director Peter Stein's production of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" in Italian with the teatro Di Roma and the teatro Stabile di Parma.

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Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, John Cleese of "Fawlty Towers" fame, actress Emma Thompson and Jennifer Saunders, creator of the hit television show "Absolutely Fabulous".

Fringe 1996 shows range from the complete story of the Bible in 90 minutes to a stage version of "Reservoir Dogs" and a piece called "Doorslam" which features 152 entrances and 150 exits.

With circus acts, children's shows, an Amnesty International auction and numerous other events — 47 per cent of them suitable for non-English audiences — one could be forgiven for thinking fringe has few new directions.

But Fringe director Hilary Strong has come up with three new projects to mark the 50th year — a circus school for 10-16 year olds, a national theatre workshop and a street art project by the Big Issue group which helps homeless people.

"As the fringe hits the 50th mark, we have created special opportunities for those groups who haven't felt able to take part before," Strong said.

"More than any other arts events, the Fringe helps young performers get their work seen, enables them to try out new ideas and explore different art forms," she added.

The film festival — once described by late American director John Huston as the "only film festival that's worth a damn" — Kicks off with the world premiere of the U.S. film "Dragonheart" and a celebrity list headed by Sean Connery and

Bernardo Bertolucci. The film festival looks at pop videos for the first time and in an eagerly-awaited event brings Michael Stipe, lead singer of American band R.E.M., to Edinburgh to launch "Road Movie".

The 50th birthday is marked by a retrospective of leading films of 1947 from Germany, Japan, the former Soviet Union, Italy, the United States and Britain.

"We find a kind of mania in the movies of 1947, a cinematic brilliance combined with deep uncertainties about the goodness of people," said film festival director Mark Cousins.

Such was the success of those early Edinburgh festivals that the international festival was nominated in the 1950s for the Nobel Peace Prize.

It did not win but the nomination showed how far the festival had come since the modest hopes expressed by the Glasgow Herald newspaper when the idea was first mooted in 1945.

"Edinburgh, it is true, cannot claim like Salzburg to be the birthplace of a Mozart but as a consolation it is worth remembering that the young genius was only too anxious to leave the provincial dullness of his native city behind him," it said.

Sean Connery now stars as computerised dragon

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

EDINBURGH — Sean Connery, onetime Scottish milkman who became fictional secret agent James Bond, is now enjoying a new incarnation as an 18-foot-high fiery dragon in the most remarkable transformation of his 45-year career.

In his latest film *Dragonheart*, Connery does not simply provide the voice for a computer-generated dragon called Draco.

Its special effects creators also raided every film he ever made in order to give Draco the sardonic raised eyebrow and twinkling eye that became Connery's trademark.

"The idea was very appealing. But I had no idea that it was going to be quite so extraordinary," said Connery, launching the film's international premiere at the Edinburgh Film Festival.

The action-packed blend of adventure and

romance aimed at children takes the process of animated film monsters a step forward from where dinosaur thriller *Jurassic Park* left off.

But Connery's role was so central that the 65-year-old actor received star billing. His voice was recorded prior to filming and the computer graphics that created Draco were designed to match his physical expressions.

"Draco is not solely an animal he's the first computer graphic imagery actor. He speaks, he has

feelings, a soul and humour. He's Sean Connery, essentially, as an 18-foot high, 43-foot long dragon," said U.S. director Rob Cohen.

"I pulled clips from the beginning of his career to his most recent performances, categorising every possible emotion — sardonic, amused, sceptical, critical, charming, seductive, intellectual."

"We broke down his emotional life on film and studied how he uses his eyes and posture and

body, then we applied them to Draco," Cohen said.

The part is hardly going to make traditional Connery fans swoon with delight. But the gray-haired Scot denied that he was seeking a new direction after a career in which he played everything from suave secret agents to gritty policemen and medieval monks.

"I think it is realistic that the chances of my playing Romeo are over," he remarked sardonically.

But he added: "I have no shortage of offers. I don't think I am getting into a retirement mode or working to an easier schedule."

He scotched the idea that he might return again to the James Bond movies that made him a household name worldwide in the 1960s — but this time playing the villain.

"I don't know where these rumours come from. They haven't asked me," he laughed. "And anyway, I don't know whether they could afford me."



Sean Connery

Should fertilisation clinics deal a full house?

By Nicholas K. Geranios
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Washington — Doctors at a fertility clinic dealt Joyce and Roger Bowman five cards. The couple ended up with a full house.

The Bowman quintuplets are doing fine, but questions are being raised about the wisdom of implanting five fertilised eggs in their mother, especially when their father is a quadriplegic.

Roger Bowman, who uses a wheelchair since a 1981 motorcycle accident, says he'll be able to help when the babies are released from a Spokane hospital in late August or early September.

"I can easily lift the kids," said Mr. Bowman, 37, an engineer at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

All four of his limbs were damaged in the crash 15 years ago, but Mr. Bowman says he is a "lower-level" quadriplegic, retaining some use of his arms and hands. He plays tennis and coaches a wheelchair basketball team.

Mr. Bowman's disability was an issue at the University of Washington Medical Centre Fertility Clinic where the quintuplets were conceived.

"I am more concerned for this couple because of Mr. Bowman's handicap," said Dr. Nancy Klein, the clinic director. "Physically, it is more difficult for him to care for the children."

But the clinic staff decided the Bowsmans could handle the situation. "They are very intelligent, very motivated," Dr. Klein said. "If anyone can make a success out of this, they will."

After an earlier attempt at in-vitro fertilisation ended in miscarriage, the Bowsmans adopted a baby boy, now 6. They withdrew their application for a second adoption after deciding to try another in-vitro procedure.

Joyce, 39, was impregnated at the Seattle clinic last fall with a relatively new technique called intracytoplasmic sperm injection.

In that procedure, a single sperm is injected into an egg and the fertilised egg is implanted in the womb. In the Bowsmans' case, the eggs and sperm were their own.

Multiple implants are common to improve the odds. About two-thirds of those undergoing the procedure do not achieve pregnancy. In the 18 months the procedure has been offered at the University of Washington, 52 women became pregnant and 84 did not conceive.

And multiple implants make financial sense. The Bowsmans paid nearly \$15,000 for the procedure, which is not covered by their health insurance.

Five eggs were implanted in Joyce. Four took hold, one of which split into twins, accounting for five babies — four girls and a boy.

"We've upped their percentage," Bowman quipped.

The Bowsmans were offered the option of aborting some of the fetuses, and declined.

On June 20, the five babies were delivered by caesarean section at Spokane's Sacred Heart Medical Centre. The underweight infants were placed in the neonatal intensive-care unit.

The boy, Clint Eugene, weighed 3 pounds, 12 ounces (1.7 kilograms) at birth. The girls are Rachel Elizabeth, who weighed 2 pounds, 11 ounces (1.2 kilograms); Randi Michelle, 3 pounds, 8 ounces (1.6 kilograms); Sierra Nicole, 2 pounds, 5 ounces (1 kilogram); Danielle Marie, 2 pounds, 1 ounce (0.9 kilogram); and Rachelle and Danielle are the identical twins.

After the births, one of the team of delivering doctors said it may be time for fertility clinics to begin restraining themselves. "We are getting better with assisted reproduction," said Dr. Richard Kates. "We may need to cut back on the amount of eggs placed, because of other issues."

Those issues include the estimated \$300,000 cost of delivering the quintuplets and providing them with special care until they are released from the hospital, and the strain on any couple looking after five babies.

The Bowsmans' medical bills will be covered by his health insurance from his job at Westinghouse Hanford Co., which operates Hanford for the U.S. Energy Department.

The couple has also been pursuing donations. Dr. Klein said the clinic will reevaluate its guidelines in light of the quintuplets' birth.

"In this case, we were too successful," she said. "We've never seen it before in our programme."

Joyce was considered a low risk for multiple births because of her age and previous miscarriage. Dr. Klein said. As success rates improve, "we are having to modify the number of embryos transferred," she said.

Potential parents are advised that multiple births are a possibility. Klein said.

"They are also told the possibility is very small," she said.

"We went in knowing there was a chance all five would take," Roger Bowman said.

Doctors at fertility clinics are reluctant to impose any arbitrary restrictions on the number of eggs implanted or the people eligible for their services, said Dr. Al Jonsen, chairman of the National Advisory Board on Ethics and Reproduction.

"There are various problems that come up, like who are worthy parents who ought to have children," said Dr. Jonsen.

Dr. Jonsen, also head of the University of Washington's Medical Ethics Department, said the idea of judging people being worthy or unworthy parents has implications I think are pretty horrifying.

So the general rule is that anyone who can pay for fertility-clinic services can have them, he said, noting that those seeking such services are usually comfortable financially and able to provide for multiple children.

When the Bowsmans take their five newborns home, they'll have help. They're enlisting friends and family to pitch in with chores such as grocery shopping.

Adopted son Matthew, their only other child, starts the first grade at the end of August and the family wants to get started on its new routines, Joyce Bowman said.

Genetic breakthrough boosts cancer research

By John Newell

BRITISH SCIENTISTS have made a drug that mimics the effects of one of the genes that naturally protect us against cancer. The hope is that the drug will stop cancer cells dividing and turn them back into normal cells. It works in the test-tube, though animal experiments and human trials are still to come.

The breakthrough comes from one of the world leaders in the field of cancer genetics, Professor David Lane, and his colleague Dr. Robin Fabraeus, of the Cancer Research Campaign's laboratories in Dundee University, Scotland.

The cancer treatment they are working towards mimics the effects of a gene called P16, which normally stops the cells of our bodies from turning into cancer cells.

Essential control

Prof. Lane does not deny that he and his colleagues are very excited about their achievements. "The P16 gene encodes a small protein that acts as a brake molecule. It can actually stop the cycle of cell division going forward. It acts as an essential control of — a brake on — cells division. The reason we are excited about it is that in many tumour cells this brake has been lost and so the cells divide uncontrollably without the control process working."

If the P16 gene is missing, damaged or wrongly switched off in one of the hundreds of millions of cells in our bodies, then it cannot tell the cell to make the protein that normally acts as a brake on cell division. The cell just goes on dividing, and grows into a cancer. Many common cancers are caused in this way, says Prof. Lane.

"Alterations in P16 function are found in prostate cancer, breast cancer and melanoma (skin cancer). P16 changes are found in 20 per cent or 30 per cent of melanomas. Normally P16 inhibits an enzyme, a cyclin dependent kinase, which is essential for a cell to duplicate its DNA, its genes, as it has to do before it divides to form two new cells. The cell can control division by regulating how much P16 protein it makes."

Damaged by mutation

"What goes wrong in the tumour cells is that the P16 gene becomes damaged by mutation so the protein can no longer be made. Then the cell division cycle can run without the brake operating. It is as if someone had cut the brake cables in your car, you don't have a way of putting the brake on."

How can the brake be repaired? One way is to try to get normal healthy P16 genes into cancer cells whose own genes are damaged, and some scientists are working on that approach. Prof. Lane's approach is different.

"What we are very excited about in our work recently published in the journal Current Biology is another

approach. And that is to make a synthetic mini-protein, just the essential part of the P16 protein, that is easy to make by ordinary chemical synthesis."

"What we have done is to find the little piece of the P16 protein that actually inhibits the enzyme that is needed for cell division, the bit that puts the brake on. And we have found a way to get this protein to go into cancer cells, by attaching it to another mini-protein that is able to transport it across the cell membrane."

"So in this way we have been able to produce chemically an entirely synthetic tumour suppressor protein, that can act like P16 and switch off the cell cycle. At the moment we have only tested this in cell cultures in test-tubes, in which it works beautifully. The next phase is animal models and then, if it works in them, ultimately trials on human beings."

Unexpected snags

Human trials must be several years away, and Prof. Lane warns they may never happen; the animal tests may reveal unexpected snags.

Important problems remain to be overcome, such as how to get the drug composed of the two proteins into tumours deep in the body. It may be done by enclosing the drug in a fatty wrapping that is naturally absorbed by cancer cells. But it is also absorbed, though to a lesser extent, by normal cells. So will the drug harm them and cause unacceptable side effects? Will it put an end to normal cell division and stop the growth and renewal of patients' bodies? Prof. Lane is cautiously optimistic.

"We think it will also get into normal cells. But what we are hoping is that the cancer cells will be particularly susceptible to having the braking signals switched back on."

"We know normal cells that absorb it may pause in their cell division and this is not particularly toxic. But in cancer cells we are hoping for a dramatic effect, to see them start to differentiate and go back to a normal growth control pattern."

This may answer another question, namely, will the drug have to be given for life, because surely the cancer cells will revert to cancerous behaviour once the drug has all been used up and broken down?

But research suggests this will not happen, so long as the drug is given for long enough for the cell to begin to differentiate into its specialised, adult form. Once that has happened it will never lapse back into uncontrolled division.

Clearly problems remain to be overcome and questions to be answered. But it is also clear that the new understanding of how abnormal genes cause cancer is now being put to work to produce new treatments for the disease, with big potential advantages over the treatments of today — LPS Feature.

Medical and social changes transform world for those with Down syndrome

By Michelle Boorstein
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — So horrified was Sandy Prince by giving birth to a baby with Down syndrome, she turned her daughter over to a foster home and told herself she wasn't cut out for raising a handicapped child.

But thoughts of the little girl consumed her, and soon the 34-year-old single mother found herself on the Internet and hunting through the telephone directories for information.

When she came across an article on the unapproved drug Piracetam, she stopped — could what its backers say be true? Could something be done to slow the mental retardation?

"At first I thought, this is crazy — it's not proven. I want a guarantee," said Ms. Prince, who retrieved the baby within hours of learning of Piracetam. "But I took notes and researched and I said, 'what have I got to lose?' maybe this is something that could work for us."

Seven months later, baby Maggie is back with her mother, taking a daily dose of Piracetam and vitamin supplements in her bottle.

Now a fervent supporter of the controversial treatment, Ms. Prince believes it is the reason Maggie can sit up, focus and is starting to speak.

"You almost wouldn't know she had Down syndrome," Ms. Prince said.

Ms. Prince is one of thousands of people using Piracetam, a synthetic amino acid some scientists believe enhances communication between the two brain hemispheres, improving the ability to learn and remember. Unapproved in the United States, it has been used to treat various learning disabilities in Europe and Canada for decades.

The skyrocketing use of Piracetam in the United States in the past three or four years is one sign among many of the dramatically changing world of people with Down syndrome.

Denied common medical treatments a quarter-century ago and regularly hauled off to institutions, those with the genetic disorder now typically live with their families, attend public schools and hold down jobs. They are also suing doctors who refuse them standard medical care.

All of these quality-of-life issues are behind the most radical phenomenon of all: Rapidly increasing life span. With the life expectancy of people with Down rising from age 9 in 1910 to age 20 in the 1950s to age 56 today, this is the first generation expected to survive into middle age.

"Parents used to assume that they would bury their children — no longer," said Richard Fee, a "life-planning" consultant who counsels people with disabilities on issues including wills, trust funds and guardians.

There are both tangible and intangible reasons for this dramatic change in life expectancy.

Standard medical care, from antibiotics to major surgery, was denied Down individuals until about 20 years ago. That included treatment of fatal congenital heart defects, which afflict nearly half the babies born with the genetic disorder.

"In the medical community, it was like, 'why would you do this for someone with Down's?'" said Dr. Brian Chicoine, medical director of the Lutheran General Adult Down Syndrome Centre. The centre, one of the only facilities of its kind, was opened in 1992 because of a new, older population afflicted with Down.

With greater social acceptance of Down individuals, families are more likely to keep them at home rather than place them in institutions. The increased life span seems to show that people with Down syndrome, like the rest of the population, live longer when they are happier, have families, homes, jobs, and a feeling of hope.

"The real startling thing is that it's just a sense of looking at our folks in the same light as regular folks," said Dr. Chicoine. "If denied these things, the rest of us would wilt as well."

Issues affecting Down individuals are sure to become more visible as their numbers grow. One in every 800 to 1,000 children in the United States is born with the chromosomal disorder.

The growing population of those with Down has stimulated an entire industry: Consultants like Mr. Fee who handle "life-planning," experts on adult housing, education, job training, sexuality and even senior homes for those with Down.

It has also started a passionate debate about alternative treatments, as parents increasingly reject conventional beliefs about the disorder.

Among the most visible and controversial advocates of alternative treatments is Dixie Tafoya, a former nutritional consultant for body builders and co-founder of Trisomy 21, a clinic in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, devoted to medical research on Down syndrome.

Ms. Tafoya inspires disgust and devotion among parents as she challenges the established national organisations devoted to the welfare of individuals with Down.

She is among those who believe Down syndrome develops after birth and can be slowed or halted with vitamin therapies and drugs like Piracetam. Among Down syndrome researchers, her name became almost synonymous with debate over alternative therapies several years ago. She put her infant daughter, Madison, on Piracetam and allowed scientists to track her progress.

"You hear the mindset from the national organisations that you must accept your child — it's a guilt thing," said Ms. Tafoya, who lives in San Jose, California. "People need to accept that Down syndrome is a disease — it's an inhibitor to my child, it's not a benefit to her."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

WHAT'S IN A NAME?
By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS

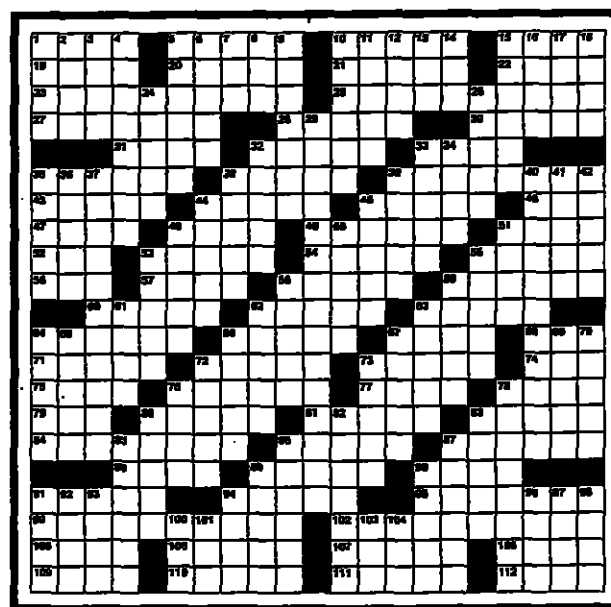
1. Pastoral figure
2. Part of a Muslim household
10. Mass packages
15. Distant, now
18. Roman general
20. Scene
21. With larvae in hand
22. A little
23. Snail's favorite
24. Gargantuan
25. Gargantuan
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27. Star of American
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43. 1984 sibling
44. First of the
45. Inspiring with
46. — pilot
47. C.T. prophet
48. Gargantuan
49. Show up
50. Handle roughly
51. Sheep's head
52. Household gods
53. — Hanks
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69. Portable
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87. Hazard
88. Printing process
89. Standard and
90. Weekly chant
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Diagramless, 21 x 21
By Frances Burton

ACROSS

1. Sprocket
2. Musical speed
3. Liver and
4. German city
5. Little one
6. Merganser
7. String
8. Five rings
9. High-fiving
10. So, it's a
11. Affirmative
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30. Old word
31. Musical sounds
32. Line
33. Turn in
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36. Dress style
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The great outdoors

INDIA IS ONE big outdoors. Even in the city, the moment you step out of the relaxed familiarity of your hotel, you might be engaged in watching a cockfight or a family of acrobats spin impossibly and do incredible feats with familiar

Now analyse your adventurous needs. If it is mountaineering, come to Garhwal, the destination of many amateur and professional mountaineering expeditions in the country. Or, if you want to do a spectacular run, base yourself at Leh

trek the fabulous Sindh and Liddar valleys. Himalayan regions, or take to the meandering forest trails around Shimla. And follow up with a relaxing swim in the warm sulphur water-baths at Vasisht in Manali. Trace the



Hang gliding

Coonoor, Ooty or Kodaikanal in serene surroundings.

Other prominent hill stations where you can relax are Ranchi, Bihar; Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh; Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra and Shillong, Meghalaya.

And in winters come skiing on the slopes at Gulmarg, Kufri or Narkanda, or trace a virgin path in the wilderness of Rohtang Pass.

Shoot the rapids in Kashmir or Himachal, Uttar Pradesh or Sikkim or take a pleasant ride down the backwaters of Kerala in thatched houseboats. Take off, in Delhi or in Pune, across the lazy blue skies,

in a glider. Or go bicycling across the startling contrasts of the Indian countryside. Or, in any season, pick up a car and travel the country as you please.

The safari is in. Board a camel at any point in Rajasthan and go with your own camp across the mighty Thar desert, camping by starlight in luxury shamanas that the sheikhs would envy you.

Whether you wish to sail from Bombay to Goa: go flying, hang gliding, mountaineering, skiing, surfing or rafting; play polo, golf or cricket, India has it all. In its many seasons — the country for all reasons.

Sun, surf and sand

TO EACH his own. While the wealth of culture that India has to offer is enormous, its amorphous contrasts can confuse, bewilder, constrain the tourist.

Take a little time off to relax then, at any of the country's magnificent beaches.

India has a spectacular coastal belt and all along, in hundreds of kilometres, are beaches, some developed, some not.

If you are a city person, Bombay is built along a bay with the Juhu beach girdling the city in opaque blue.

Further down the coast, however, are beaches not visited by people except for the fisherfolk. Equally enticing is the Marina beach at Madras.

But if you wish to escape from the cities, come to Goa. A former Portuguese colony, Goa has over a hundred kilometres of beach strips, each more compelling than the other.

Now fully developed as an international beach resort, Goa offers the finest holiday villages, hotels and cottages. Come at Christmas or New Year, come during the Carnival following Lent: the boisterous merry making, feni — the local wine, the strains of lonely, haunting melody, will become tangible memories of an earthly Xanadu.

Come to Kovalam, Kerala's magnificent beach



Kovalam Beach, Kerala

resort, set amidst the blue of the Arabian Sea and the lush green vegetation of Kerala. Wake up to yoga exercises in the morning and close your eyes to tender fingers massaging your tanned body in the finest experiments in herbal and ayurvedic massages.

Equally inviting is the Marina beach in Madras. From here head for Mamallapuram and watch the sea thunderously applaud the beach temple, gloriously silhouetted against a spectacular blue sky. Or go to Visakhapatnam and swim idly in the sea and watch the great factories here build Indian ships. Come to unexplored Gopalpur-on-Sea in Orissa. Or visit Puri, surely the world's most picturesque sea coast. And then there is Digha — beautiful, exotic, splendid in its isolation. And while a resort comes up in Mangalore, or close by Manipal, you can always discover a beach of your own in Gujarat, where the beach line still awaits exploitation.

But the beach holiday to beat them all will be on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. A turquoise sea with myriads of coloured fish, white tree-fringed sands, coral reefs, and shells, shells, and more shells for the collection of a lifetime.

CONGRATULATIONS

General agents of



K&T
Al-Karmel Travel & Tourlism,
Trading Co. Ltd.



in Jordan

*Congratulates the friendly Indian nation
on the Independence Day of India*

On the occasion of the
Independence Day of India

Dr. Naser Al-Maaitah, General Manager,
Zarka University Services Est.

conveys his heartily greetings to the
government and Indian people

On the occasion of the
Independence Day of India

Indo-Jordan Scholars Club

conveys its heartily greetings to the
government and Indian people

CONGRATULATIONS

PAK UAN SERVICES

EXTEND THEIR FELICITATIONS AND
BEST WISHES TO THE FRIENDLY
PEOPLE OF INDIA AND STAFF OF
THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN JORDAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

On the occasion of the
Independence Day of India
Kawar Drug Store

conveys its heartily greetings to the
government and Indian people



MODERN VEHICLE TRADING CO.

Agents of TATA in Jordan

and

ELBA HOUSE CO. LTD

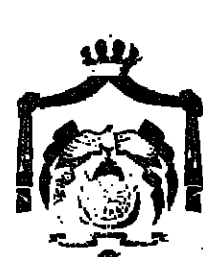
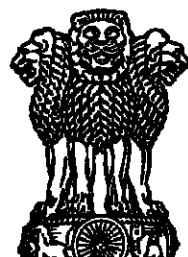
Manufacturers of TATA Buses in Jordan

Congratulate the president

and the people of India

on the occasion of the

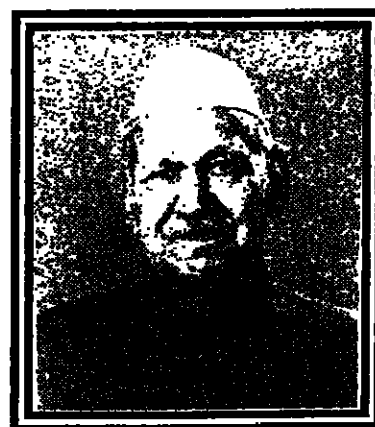
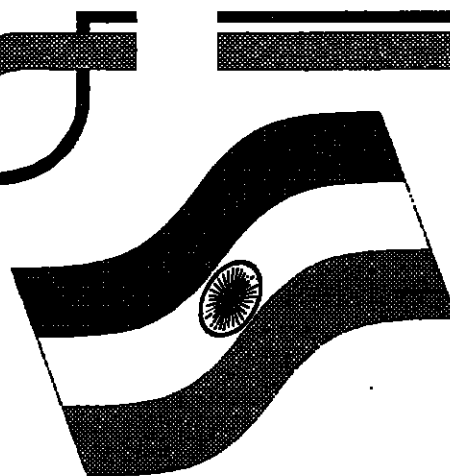
INDEPENDENCE DAY



ON THE OCCASION OF
THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF
INDIA

INDO - JORDAN CHEMICALS CO. LTD.
(A JOINT VENTURE OF SPIC-INDIA & JPMC-JORDAN)

CONVEYS ITS FELICITATIONS AND CORDIAL
WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA



JORDAN FERTILIZER ASSOCIATION

ARAB POTASH CO.

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO.

WISH THE PEOPLE OF INDIA
A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP
AND HOPES OF CONTINUED
PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

Benefits of growth need time to trickle down to poor classes

Jardaneh sees right quality, good outlets for investments as main challenge

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "There is no problem and no reason for concern about the flow of foreign currencies to Jordan," former Finance Minister Basil Jardaneh said in a lecture Tuesday evening. "The quandary is not having the right quality and enough good outlets for investments."

Sustainability

Addressing a large audience at Al Faiha Club, Mr. Jardaneh stressed that achieving economic growth was not enough as such growth should be sustained and ongoing without any economic imbalances. He explained that the modern economic approach gives high importance to macro-economic stability. "This stability is the nucleus of economic reform," he emphasised.

Mr. Jardaneh attributed the absence of the policy to maintain macro economic stability and to ensure a gradual decline in reliance on foreign aid and resources for the economic crisis in 1988-1989. He noted that Jordan enjoyed high growth rates in the early 80s.

The former finance minister shed some light on government spending noting that in the early 80s such spending was more than 50 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) whereas in 1995 the rate declined to about 36 per cent. The widening of government spending also included current expenditures which in 1988 reached 33 per cent but dropped to about 28 per cent in 1995.

The expansion in government spending was accompanied by a fall in national and local savings which resulted in higher consumption and a deficit. In the second half of the 80s local savings were negative and the national savings level plunged causing a wide gap that had to be financed through external borrow-

ing. This have resulted in a huge imbalance, Mr. Jardaneh elaborated.

'Very good results'

According to Mr. Jardaneh, who has now returned to the banking sector as managing director of the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank, the structural adjustment programme has achieved "very good results." He backed up his statement by pointing out the following achievements based on the data issued by authorised government departments.

1) The national economy has registered continued growth at fixed prices from 1992 until 1995. In 1992 the growth rate was 16 per cent but was down to 5.9 per cent in 1993 and 1994 before rising to 6.4 per cent in 1995.

2) The gap in the balance of payments has been narrowed as a percentage of the GDP, deficit was estimated at three per cent in 1995 while expectations was for it to be around eight per cent.

3) The overall debt to GDP ratio declined from 200 per cent in 1988 to about 92 per cent in 1995. (A 75 per cent rate is considered acceptable)

4) Local imbalances were rectified with local and national savings registering a big increase to reach 32.1 per cent in 1995 against an investment rate of 32.8 per cent.

5) Inflation rate has been under control and noticeably declining.

Mr. Jardaneh outlined in his lecture the following five areas which are considered as performance criteria to measure Jordan's adherence to economic restructuring.

a) Changes in net domestic assets at the Central Bank



Basil Jardaneh

b) Changes in net international assets at the Central Bank
c) The government borrowing (expected to be nil next year)
d) Reserve money
e) Government external borrowing.

Objectives of reform

The former minister outlined the bases and objectives of the structural adjustment programme and stressed the following points:

1) Limit the expansion of liquidity and money supply including putting a ceiling for local credit extension and for public sector borrowing.

2) Gradual reduction in the state budget to boost national savings, stabilise prices and the dinar's exchange rate as well as improving the dinar's exchange rate as well as improving the spending outlets and government revenues by imposing a tax on consumption (sales tax) and stopping taxation on invest-

ments and savings.

Other objectives included giving special importance to boosting the attractiveness of dinar-denominated savings over other currencies, increasing the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves to cover imports for at least three months and gradually reducing the burden of debt service for it not to exceed 75 per cent of GDP. Such reduction was expected in the form of debt rescheduling, write offs, debt-equity swaps or turning debts into grants or even debt repurchase at a discount among other alternatives.

On the supply side, the programme aims at improving production efficiency in

the short term by eliminating the distortion of price-fixing and monopolies, reducing subsidies and dismantling trade barriers.

In the long term, higher production should be achieved through providing necessary incentives for savings and investments and encouraging foreign investment. Amending the investment promotion law, adopting a general sales tax approach and amending the income tax law were considered essential in this regard.

In this overall context, the objectives translate into:

A) Achieving a real annual growth of no less than six per cent.

B) Reducing the current account deficit in the balance of payments to less than three per cent.

C) Increasing foreign currency reserves to cover imports for at least three months.

D) Maintaining a high average of investments to GDP (at about 34 per cent).

E) Maintaining control over the government current spending and reducing the budget deficit to 4.1 per cent in 1996 and 2.5 per cent in 1998.

F) Adopting positive and flexible interest rate policies.

G) Maintaining the stability of the Jordanian dinar exchange rate.

H) Preparing the right climate to activate the private sector.

I) Continued reduction in the volume of debt as a percentage of GDP.

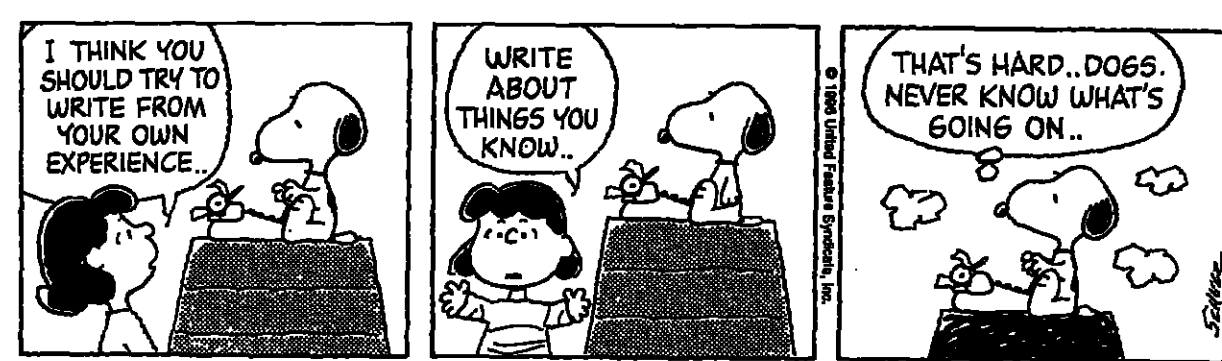
Comparisons with other countries

Mr. Jardaneh compared (Continued on page 9)

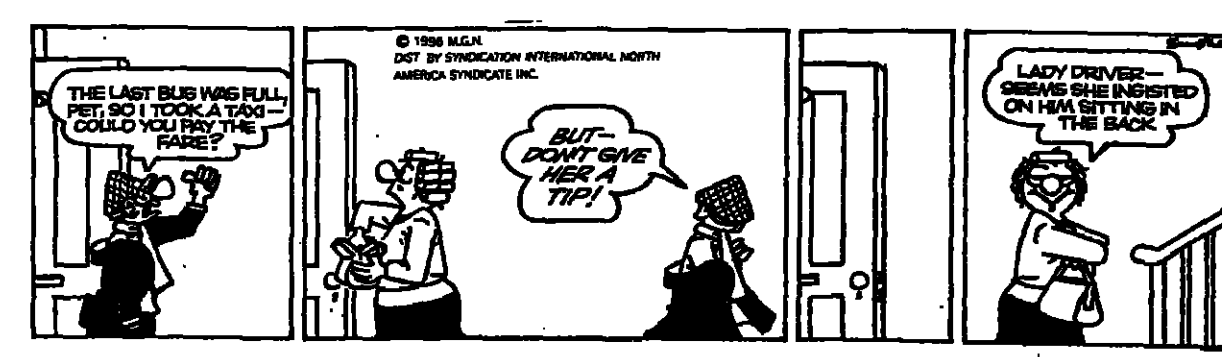


"Whenever I let my co-workers walk all over me, I come home with such a backache!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can gain many new ideas today and you are highly inspired so put them in motion quickly. Later tonight keep active in your career activities and make the best of some advice which you are provided by a bigwig.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) You are aware of what will make your mate happier at this time, so carry through with your own ideas and make him or her content. Later this evening you can plan some special recreational activities to spend with your loved ones.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A modern-thinking fellow associate today has the right answers you need to succeed in your career activities. Use the finest judgement possible so that you can receive praise from some authority figure who can give you much prestige.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Kept busy occupied at career activities today and time will pass quickly. Take advice from a fellow associate later this evening and you will discover the progress which you are striving to obtain in the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Purchase a gift for your mate today which will please him or her greatly and thereby you will receive quite a lot of affection. Then you can infinitely happier together later this evening and provide the support which is important.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If a loved one at home desires to do something different than usual today, this could turn out better than you thought and will result in the success and prestige which is important to you at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You like to be cooperative, however, today it is best you are more direct and a bit less demanding to get ahead, especially in the eyes of some authority figure or bigwig who has your success in business in his or her hands.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a sudden idea today how to add to your assets so put it in operation quickly and gain benefits which are important to you at this time. Later this evening you can gain the support of a fellow associate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your intuitive perceptions are usually quite accurate, however, even more so today. Be fair in your discussions with close friends on what you desire to occur in terms of your career activities for the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Show you mate that you are indeed devoted to him or her today and you will stick by any course of action which is chosen. Be fair and just with this person and you will receive a great deal of affection directed towards you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may suddenly hear from close friends today which you had not expected and which is appreciated. You may feel tired and you should rest so that you can recharge your batteries. Your judgement is not so good.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put your progressive ideas in motion today and you will discover the success which you are searching for at this time. Make a fine impression on some influential person and you can receive much prestige from your efforts.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz.

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NORIG

THILG

FEegur

KONVIE

Answer: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRUTH EXILE PODIUM BUTANE

Answer: What the fender bender did to the driver's perfect record — PUT A DENT IN IT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Hansi Arnold and Mike Argentin

For your long service...

HOW THE SHY EMPLOYEE FELT AT HIS FAREWELL PARTY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Frederick T. Buhler

ACROSS

1 Sports off.

4 Salivized gently

11 Sixth sense

14 Old alliance letters

15 Spread throughout

16 Electrical unit of conductance

17 Bikini part

18 Natural home

19 Gaffer Crenshaw

20 Perils

22 — Isle

24 Happen

25 Frankie of music

26 Government report/ seemingly dangerous one

32 Loch —

33 Humiliate

34 Dozes

35 Stir up

36 Bullfight cheers

40 Marsh plants

41 Action group

45 Emerald for May/ prehistoric megalith

48 Thin line

49 Passion

50 Beguiler

53 Cultivation

55 One in Berlin

58 In proportion

58 Contend

59 Enthusiast

60 Stores fodder

61 Bard's always

62 Letters

63 Mends shoes

64 Draft agcy.

DOWN

1 Massage

2 Oatmeal

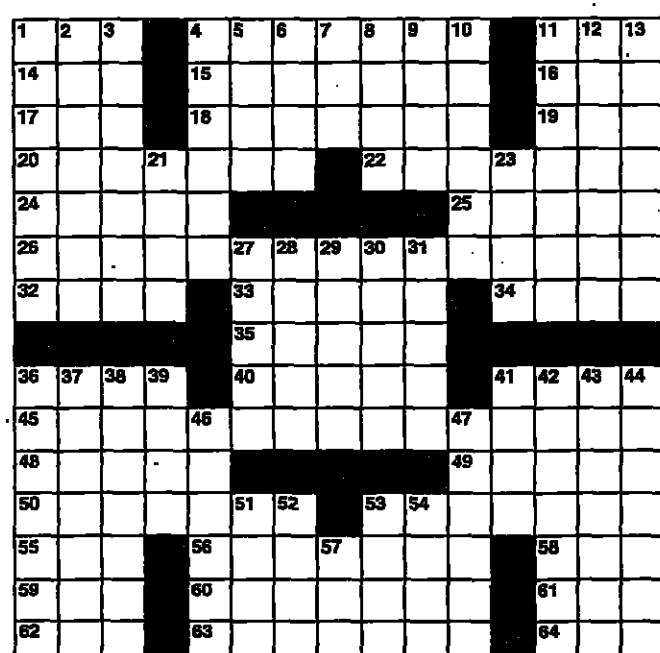
3 Philosopher

4 Bacon

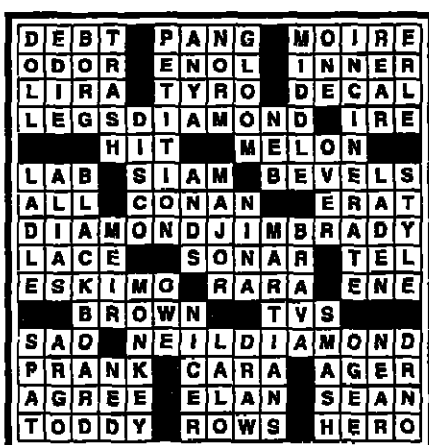
5 Fleshy fruit

6 Eyes

7 Egg: pref.



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43 Incidents of suffering
44 Corporate combinations
46 Clothes collector
47 Beleaguer
51 Sea eagle
52 Perot
53 Season
54 Suit to —
57 — Grande

High liquidity boosts Saudi stock trading, lowers prices

ABU DHABI (AFP)— A surge in liquidity caused by government payments to its local creditors coupled with a decline in the prices of many shares boosted activity in the Saudi Arabian stock market in the first half of 1996, dealers in the kingdom have said.

The decline in the share prices due to lower performance by several trading companies depressed the stock index by around six per cent to 127.50 points at the end of June from 137.70 at the end of 1995, they said.

But the price drop attracted investors searching for investment scopes for their liquidity, boosting turnover to around 9.2 billion Saudi riyals (\$2.45 billion) during the first half of 1996 from 8.2 billion riyals (\$2.18 billion) during the same period of 1995.

"There is much liquidity coming to the market as the

government has paid large sums in outstanding debts to local contractors," said Inzar Ahmad, deputy chairman of the Riyadh-based Consultancy Centre for Finance and Investment.

"You know the contractors have not been paid for a long time due to the financial circumstances of the country. There were payments for many of them this year apparently because of higher oil income," he told AFP by telephone.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, earned nearly \$1.5 billion in extra income in the first half of 1996 compared with the same period of 1995 due to an increase of \$1.4 in crude prices.

The government has owed billions of dollars to national contractors who had carried out development projects in the kingdom but have not been paid fully.

Apart from paying debts, Saudi Arabia has also used part of the additional revenues to rebuild its overseas reserves that have sharply eroded over the past few years because of low oil prices and Gulf war costs.

"The stock market performed very well this year and was much busier than last year despite the decline in the index," Mr. Ahmad said.

"The trend for the whole year is that the market will be stable but busier than last year. If liquidity remains high, then there will be a good opportunity for investors to buy shares because they are now undervalued," he added.

Dealers said there was more declines than increases in the prices of shares this year and this has pushed down the market capitalisation of the trading institution to around 159.3 billion riyals

(\$42.48 billion) at the end of June from 147.9 billion riyals (\$39.44 billion) at the end of 1995.

According to Mr. Ahmad, whose centre is a key stock broker, the giant Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) and four other banks and firms accounted for more than 50 per cent of the share-dealing in the first half.

He said demand for SABIC shares, which are also traded in other Arab Gulf states, was very strong due to a decline in their prices to 355 riyals (\$94.66) from 393 riyals (\$104.8) at the start of 1996.

Traders attributed the fall in SABIC share prices to lower earnings because of a decline in world petrochemical prices. This compares with record profits in 1995 after a surge in prices and its production.

The Saudi government

owns 70 per cent of SABIC, one of the biggest chemical producers in the world. But it has spoken of plans to sell half its stake in the company, with a capital of 10 billion riyals (\$2.66 billion).

"SABIC, Al Rajhi Bank and three other trading institutions had the lion share of the share transactions in the first half of this year. The decline in their share prices has sharply boosted business in the market in terms of the number of traded shares," Mr. Ahmad said.

More than 70 banks and companies trade their shares in Saudi Arabia, which has no official exchange as dealing is conducted through an advanced bank network. Despite the absence of a floor, the Saudi market accounts for nearly half the total Arab share capitalisation and one third of the turnover.

Former finance minister: Consumer confidence fading

(Continued from page 8)

The Jordanian indebtedness to that of Israel and highlighted that in 1990 the Jordanian debts exceeded 280 per cent of GDP whereas the rate in Israel was 112 per cent. In 1994, the rate fell to 121 per cent in Jordan and to 92 per cent in Israel. Internal debts accounted for 28 per cent of the total Jordan debt in 1994 whereas the internal debt represented 72 per cent.

Mr. Jardaneh showed that the Kingdom performed so well in terms of investments as a percentage of GDP.

He said that the rates in Jordan in 1992 and 1993 were 30 per cent and 31.8 respectively compared to 22 per cent and 22.7 per cent in Turkey, 18.2 per cent and 19.9 per cent in Egypt, 27.3 per cent and 25.9 per cent in Indonesia, 19.6 per cent and 20.4 per cent in Brazil and 23 per cent and 24.1 per cent in Morocco.

hour period, Mr. Jardaneh expected growth in 1996 to be between three and six per cent.

He said that some indicators were positive whereas some others were not as they should be. He pointed out that "consumer confidence is diminishing and home starts declining when measure on domestic cement sales."

On a positive note, he said that there has been a high growth in electrical consumption by industries in the first quarter and that if exports to Iraq are neutralised, there has also been a high growth in exports.

Mr. Jardaneh denied that economic growth was not showing in better living conditions for the people by pointing to the rise in local and national savings but he admitted that such benefits were "concentrated." He explained that had the beneficiaries of economic growth been the poor and limited-income classes, the reflection would have shown in higher consumption.

He gestured that benefits of economic growth would over time trickle to the poor a policy that has been known as "Reaganomics" in the United States.

First Palestinian Airways plane delivered ... to Egypt

GAZA CITY (AFP)— Palestinian Airways has taken delivery of its first airliner, but the plane had to land in Egypt because Israel and the Palestinian National Authority are still squabbling over the opening of an airport in Gaza, officials said Wednesday.

General Fayez Zeidan, head of the Palestinian Airport Authority, said the Fokker 50 passenger jet landed Tuesday in the Sinai port of Al Arish.

"It flew to Egypt because Israel has not yet given authorisation for planes to land at our airport," he told AFP. He said the second of two Fokker 50s ordered by the nascent Palestinian airline would be delivered next week. The Palestinian National Authority has built a runway at Dehamiya, in the southern Gaza Strip, but disputes with Israeli authorities have prevented further work on an international airport to be constructed at the site.

Israel is insisting that the airport terminal be placed in a zone under joint Israeli-Palestinian control and that Israel retain full responsibility for security checks on incoming and outgoing passengers and goods.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's personal plane landed at the airfield earlier this year in a symbolic inaugural ceremony, but he was not in the plane at the time.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE									
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 14/08/1996									
PRICE	12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF ORDERS	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE
250,000	208,000	ABU BAKR	12.1	1.39	16	430	22400	220.00	220.00
2,700	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. CO.	5.0	0.26	5	3940	12133	2.12	2.12
1,940	900	JOB. GULF BANK	1.4	7.78	7	8950	8127	91	91
4,130	3,300	JOB. ZALAMAT BANK	17.1	0.00	7	2600	12836	3.30	3.30
4,130	1,700	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	1.8	0.00	1	100	278	1.70	1.70
2,330	2,340	UNION SEC. SERV. CO. (NEW)	1.8	0.00	4	900	2344	2.40	2.40
1,030	1,200	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	9	0.00	50	14950	37570	1.20	1.20
1,680	1,000	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	9	0.00	3	361	428	1.15	1.15
BANK SECTOR TOTALS									
2,910	3,150	JOB. GULF BANK	6.4	0.89	1	200	490	2.20	2.20
2,400	2,400	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	6.8	10.42	1	200	954	2.40	2.40
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS									
1,900	1,490	JOB. ZALAMAT BANK	11.3	7.80	39	26344	45184	1.60	1.60
1,850	1,240	INDUSTRIAL DEV. CO.	9.4	0.26	10	3050	4286	1.44	1.44
2,270	1,780	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	11.6	0.00	11	3600	2403	1.70	1.70
1,150	900	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	20.4	0.00	3	1380	1178	94	92
2,440	1,790	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	31.4	0.00	1	250	473	1.88	1.88
1,400	900	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10.0	0.00	10	500	8950	1.00	1.00
2,430	1,700	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10.0	0.00	10	500	9399	1.91	1.90
1,200	1,000	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10	0.00	3	650	598	1.20	1.20
AMMAN SECTOR TOTALS									
3,770	3,090	JOB. GULF BANK	19.2	1.39	11	11390	3947	3.34	3.34
3,880	2,710	JOB. ZALAMAT BANK	20.2	0.00	2	280	703	2.69	2.69
6,530	5,180	JOB. GULF BANK	18.6	0.00	2	150	750	1.18	1.18
10,550	8,720	JOB. ZALAMAT BANK	9.4	0.00	6	1350	12547	9.30	9.30
8,180	6,430	JOB. GULF BANK	9.4	0.00	6	3500	24818	7.09	7.09
5,180	4,130	JOB. ZALAMAT BANK	30.4	0.00	18	8716	17484	7.72	7.72
6,430	5,180	JOB. GULF BANK	7.6	0.00	1	200	1220	6.18	6.18
3,210	2,500	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	7.3	10.40	4	800	1413	2.40	2.40
2,500	2,400	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	7.3	0.00	2	600	870	1.47	1.47
5,820	3,130	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	8.7	0.00	3	1050	3678	3.83	3.83
1,400	900	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10.0	0.00	10	500	8950	1.00	1.00
1,200	1,000	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10.0	0.00	3	650	598	1.20	1.20
3,210	2,500	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	7.3	10.40	4	800	1413	2.40	2.40
2,500	2,400	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	7.3	0.00	2	600	870	1.47	1.47
5,820	3,130	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	8.7	0.00	3	1050	3678	3.83	3.83
1,400	900	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10.0	0.00	10	500	8950	1.00	1.00
1,200	1,000	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10.0	0.00	3	650	598	1.20	1.20
3,210	2,500	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	7.3	10.40	4	800	1413	2.40	2.40
2,500	2,400	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	7.3	0.00	2	600	870	1.47	1.47
5,820	3,130	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	8.7	0.00	3	1050	3678	3.83	3.83
1,400	900	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10.0	0.00	10	500	8950	1.00	1.00
1,200	1,000	UNION SEC. SERV. CO.	10.0	0.00	3	650	598	1.20	1.20
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Arsenal poised to name Frenchman as new manager

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal are reportedly poised to name Frenchman Arsene Wenger as their new manager following the sacking of Bruce Rioch.

The club is expected to confirm Wenger's appointment at a press conference before the weekend and Wenger has told close friends in Strasbourg that he has satisfactorily concluded talks with Arsenal.

"He rang me from Tokyo and told me he has taken the job," said a long-time friend in Wenger's former hometown of Strasbourg, who asked not to be identified.

The former Monaco coach, in charge of Japanese club Nagoya Grampus Eight, is expected to leave Tokyo late Wednesday for London. Grampus Eight, however, refuse to confirm or deny Wenger's possible departure.

"We want him to stay with

us but we have not held specific discussion on the matter. Even if such a deal with Arsenal is under discussion in secrecy, I don't think he (Wenger) would talk about it openly," said Grampus Eight spokesman Masaharu Teshima.

The 47-year-old Wenger, who is a close friend of Highbury Vice-Chairman David Dein, was recently wanted as the Football Association's new technical director by in-coming England boss Glenn Hoddle — his former protege at Monaco.

But Hoddle has admitted his own attempts to bring Wenger to England failed because the Frenchman wants to continue in a day-to-day managerial role at a top club.

Arsenal are so far refusing to confirm the appointment of Wenger.

"The new manager has to

be a first class coach, someone to communicate with the players and the board," Arsenal Chairman Peter Hill Wood told the Sun.

"Football has gone international in recent seasons and that is the route we will continue to follow."

"The coach is responsible for the players and the team performance and the directors run the club. It works well on the continent so why should it not work here?"

Hill Wood said he doubted any firm announcement would be made before Saturday.

Wenger, who only played 11 matches in three seasons as a professional, launched a sparkling career in management after becoming youth team chief of Strasbourg and Nancy.

He was appointed chief coach at Monaco in 1987 where he lifted the French

championship after signing both Hoddle and former England striker Mark Hateley.

Hoddle said: "I would not be where I am today if it were not for Arsene. Working with him at Monaco stimulated me to go into management."

"Wherever he has gone he has been a major success. At one stage he was offered the job of French national team coach but at the time it wasn't right for him."

"I believe he would make an excellent technical director. But if he chose to stay at club level I'm sure he would be successful."

There is speculation already that Wenger will try to influence the capture of AC Milan's brilliant Liberian striker George Weah, who was under his wing in French football.



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona gestures while talking to fans and reporters upon his arrival at Geneva Airport. Maradona flew into Switzerland to begin a drugs cure programme at a private clinic on the shores of Lake Geneva (Reuters photo)

Maradona arrives in Switzerland for drugs cure

GENEVA (R) — Diego Maradona flew into Switzerland Tuesday to begin a drugs cure at a private clinic on the shores of Lake Geneva.

The 35-year-old former Argentina soccer captain, twice suspended for using drugs, looked tired but relaxed on arrival at Geneva Airport. He greeted bystanders, picked up children and joked with a group of reporters.

But he refused to answer any questions about the reasons for his visit or about his drugs problem as he was whisked through customs into a waiting car.

Swiss Television reported that Maradona was heading to "La Prairie" clinic, located

at Clarens-Sur-Montreux overlooking Lake Geneva, for detoxification treatment.

The clinic itself refused to comment on the report. "We never divulge either the identity of our patients nor their treatment," said a clinic spokeswoman.

Once considered the greatest soccer player in the world, Maradona was twice suspended for using drugs — in 1992 when he was playing for Italian club Napoli and during the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

He has also been arrested for cocaine possession in Argentina.

A day after abruptly ending his stint with local side Boca Juniors, Maradona

said in Buenos Aires Monday that he wanted to kick his drug habit for the sake of his daughters.

"I'm told there's an 80 per cent chance they will cure my addiction. I'll make up for the rest with grit and courage," he told local television.

"The Swiss clinic was recommended to me by a friend and I'm going because in Argentina many doctors instead of treating you and curing you just take your money," he added.

"Besides, there is no knowledge about drugs here and many people have no idea how hard it is to get over a bout of depression and an addiction."

Maradona said that after

the 12-day treatment he would visit his brother Raoul in Canada and then travel to Cuba to meet athletes who took part in the Olympics.

"I wanted to go to the United States but since they're not letting me in I'm going to Cuba," he said.

Maradona announced he was leaving Boca just before the team's penultimate match of the season against Estudiantes De La Plata Sunday. Boca lost 2-1, dashing their title hopes.

"It's all my fault what is happening to Boca right now," he said before the game.

Williams advances to clash with Graf

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AFP) — Venus Williams advanced to the third round of the \$450,000 WTA Tour tennis tournament here Tuesday, lining up a shot at Steffi Graf, whose Grand Slam titles alone number more than Williams' pro matches.

Graf, the world number one and top seed whose victory at Wimbledon this year was her 20th Grand Slam triumph, eased into the third round with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over American Katrina Adams.

Williams, a tall, big-hitting 16-year-old, defeated Linda Wild 6-1, 6-2 to take her career win-loss record to 7-6.

Graf's match was her first in five weeks. A knee injury forced her out of the Olympic Games, but she said Adams' attacking style caused her more trouble than rustiness.

"It hasn't been that long. I've had worse lay-offs," Graf said. "She doesn't let you get a rhythm. We basically had no rallies, so you just try to concentrate on your serve and your return and try whenever you can to go for the backhand passing shot."

Graf is playing at Manhattan Beach for the first time since 1987, when she beat Chris Evert in the final to gain the world number one ranking for the first time. She has been ranked number one for a record 345 weeks in her career.

Williams, touted as a tennis prodigy before she hit her teens, has been kept largely off the circuit by her coach/manager father, Richard Williams.

But she said she was looking forward to meeting Graf Wednesday night.

"I think everyone always wants to play the number one player in the world," Williams said. "I don't think I'll have any trouble staying calm. I have nothing to lose. It will be fun for me."

Lindsay Davenport, fresh from her gold medal-winning performance at the Atlanta Olympics, was relieved to get past Italian left-hander Francesca Lubiani 7-5, 6-2.

Davenport, the fourth seed, said she had trouble getting the measure of Lubiani's left-handed serve. She also admitted to some nerves before the second-round encounter.

"I'm glad to get this first match out of the way," she said. "I was nervous to play here. This is where I'm from, and a lot of people are expecting more from me now."

Reflecting on the task facing Williams, Davenport said: "Even up to last year, whenever I played any of those top players I thought, 'please don't let me be killed.'"

"You go out thinking you have nothing to lose, and soon you're thinking, 'please, let me win a game soon.'"

In other second-round matches Tuesday, third-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan defeated Gail Leon Garcia of Spain 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. Fifth-seeded South African Amanda Coetzer defeated American Jolene Watanabe 6-4, 6-0, eighth-seeded American Amy Frazier beat compatriot Debbie Graham 7-6 (7/5), 2-6, 7-5, and Italy's Silvia Farina defeated France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-7 (7/9), 6-3, 6-2.

Sampras seriously tested in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras was seriously tested by 300th-ranked qualifier Don Johnson of the United States before capturing a 7-6 (7-3) 6-7 (8-10) 6-2 second-round win at the \$1.04 million RCA Championships.

"I feel that my game is coming around a little bit even though I struggled a little bit today," Sampras said. "I feel like I had such a long break, five weeks after Wimbledon. That is the longest break I've had in some time and I need some matches to get into the swing of things."

Fifth-seeded American Todd Martin is also feeling a little bit uncomfortable on the tennis court these days, but managed to post a 2-6 6-2 6-1 victory over 121st-ranked Mauricio Hadad of Colombia.

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Sports

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Sports

100 participants register for Rumman Hill Climb

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Around 100 participants from Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt and Bahrain will be testing their driving skills when the country's most popular auto sport event, The Rumman Hill Climb, begins Friday.

This year's competition is the 40th to be organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ). Results will be announced Friday night in a special ceremony organised by RACJ.

Registration for the event, which was initiated by His

Majesty King Hussien in 1956, closed Sunday.

The event has attracted participants from several Arab nations, including UAE's Mohammad Ben Salim and Salem Ben Shaiban, from Bahrain Sheikh Jaber Ben Ali Al Khalifeh, Raed Abed Jawad from Saudi Arabia and Nader Khayyat from Egypt. At least 10 Lebanese participants have registered including Jean Pierre Nasrallah who held the best time record last year.

Also from Lebanon Nabil Karam, Adel Mami and the only female driver Hanadi Salam will take part in the competition.

The event has attracted the country's top competitors vying for advanced standings in the 1996 Jordan Driver's Open Championship.

Jordan will depend on Ahmad Dawood, Bashshar Bustami, Marouf Abu Samrah and others who will face a greater challenge from the other participants.

Competitors in the two session event will be trying to break the record for the 3 kilometre-long event which was set by His Majesty King Hussien in 1989 in his Mercedes 190 with a time of 2 minutes 42 seconds.

Sensation bids for 1st group one success

DEAUVILLE, France (R)

French-trained fully Sensation, who made such a big impression at Newmarket last month, steps up to group one company in the Prix Jacques Le Marois Thursday.

The Newmarket victory at the big July meeting had class written all over it and the daughter of Soviet Star, defending a four-race unbeaten record, may have more scope that stable companion Le Triton, winner of the Prix Jean Prat earlier in the season.

The presence of the Irish 2,000 Guineas winner Spinning World, and the Sussex Stakes second Charnwood Forest, should ensure that this is a stiff test.

Spinning World's lacklustre effort in the St. James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot last time is best forgotten as the Niarcho family runner was unsuited by the fast ground.

The ground is expected to prove more congenial for Spinning World who likes a bit of give and looked a good horse when winning in Ireland.

Charnwood Forest was a hot favourite for the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood only to find First Island too good.

As long as the ground is not too soft the colt will take his chance with British champion jockey Frankie Dettori on board.

Dettori has recently returned from injury and will be wearing the Godolphin colours for the first time since his comeback.

Iraq beats Jordan 1-0, qualifies for Asian Cup finals in UAE

AMMAN (AP) — Abdul-Jabbar Hannoun scored midway through the second half Tuesday, securing a 1-0 victory for Iraq over Jordan and sending his country to the 11th Asian Cup finals.

Hannoun gave Iraq the lead in the 62nd minute, taking a rebounded ball from Jordanian keeper Ahmad Abu Nasoub and sending it right into the net.

The Jordanians resisted relentless Iraqi offensives

throughout the game played before 24,000 fans.

In the 17th minute, Iraqi striker Ahmad Swadi received the ball from a free kick from teammate Saheb Abbas to fire it a few metres away from the Jordanian goalpost.

In the second half, the Jordanians tried to advance. They missed a chance in the 55th minute, when striker Jiryes Tadros received a cross kick from team

Captain Jamal Abu Abed and swerved the ball toward the Iraqi net, where keeper Imad Hashem was on guard.

Another chance for the Jordanians came five minutes before Bahraini referee Ali Al Sheikh blew his whistle. Striker Basam Khatib unleashed a long, threatening shot, which was intercepted near the Iraqi net.

Following Jordan's and Pakistan's defeat in the qualifying matches for

group 6, Iraq will advance to the 12-team Asian cup finals in the United Arab Emirates from Dec. 3 to 20. Bangladesh, another group 6 participant, withdrew from the tournament.

Other teams contesting the finals are South Korea, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, Syria, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Japan and host Emirates.

Cantona could play for France

PARIS (R) — Manchester United idol Eric Cantona, the most notable absentee at Euro 96, could yet play for France when they host the World Cup finals in 1998.

France coach Aime Jacquet said in an interview published Tuesday that all French players with clubs abroad had a chance of being picked, particularly this season which he termed a "phase of preparation, trials, transformation."

"A choice is never definitive," Jacquet told the sports daily L'Equipe when asked whether he would again consider picking Cantona and Newcastle United winger David Ginola.

"I know them. I know how to use them. But for the moment we're working on a continuity basis. If I continue with my task it's not to go in reverse."

"But I'm not made of stone, nor an idiot, nor mad."

I'm there to build the best possible team... To prepare for the World Cup."

Jacquet added that Cantona and Ginola were "precisely" an alternative choice.

Cantona, who helped Manchester United win the English double last season, confirmed his status as the most influential player in the Premier League with his performance in United's 4-0 rout of Newcastle in the Charity Shield at Wembley Sunday.

France disappointed at the European Championship finals in England in June when they went out in the semifinals after starting among the favourites to win the event. Their attack became more blunt as the tournament progressed.

Jacquet did not pick Cantona and Ginola after finishing a side unbeaten in the qualifying series and which has yet to taste defeat in 28 matches, going out to the

Czech Republic in the Euro 96 semifinals on penalties.

"I've made difficult choices, heavy with consequences," Jacquet said of his two years so far in the job.

He said his chief forwards Youri Djorkaeff and Zinedine Zidane, now respectively with Internazionale and Juventus in Italy, had lost their way in the European Championship finals.

"I'm still convinced they can work well together. But they are going to have to think about what happened in England and that lack of explosion in their game."

Jacquet said France would have to be playing badly, however, for veteran striker Jean-Pierre Papin, back in his home country with Bordeaux after several seasons abroad with AC Milan then Bayern Munich, to earn a recall.

No arguments this year, Beckenbauer tells Bayern

BONN (R) — Chairman Franz Beckenbauer has warned Bayern Munich they will need composure as well as their big pre-season signings if they want to beat champions Borussia Dortmund to the German League title.

The two clubs have splashed out about \$16 million between them on new players during the summer in preparation for another duel for Bundesliga supremacy, starting this weekend.

But that will count for little if Germany's richest club Bayern allow a repeat of the internal squabbling which damaged last season's campaign.

"You don't win titles with arguments, and those petty jealousies cost us the championship," former World Cup-winning captain and coach Beckenbauer said.

"That's why Dortmund won the title." Dortmund have bought classy Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa and promising young defender Rene Schneider while Bayern have attracted international

midfielder Mario Basler and Italian striker Ruggiero Rizzitelli to Munich.

Adding Basler from Werder Bremen, and Rizzitelli from Torino, to a squad which already included German captain Juergen Klinsmann and internationalists Lothar Matthaus and Mehmet Scholl, has made Bayern the bookmakers' favourites to win a record 14th title.

But the Munich dressing room is like a firework waiting to be lit.

Klinsmann and former German captain Matthaus had a bitter public row last season and Basler and Scholl both have reputations for being outspoken.

In contrast, Dortmund showed more discipline during the tense battle last season.

Their coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said: "The team has grown together through winning the title. The harmony is better now than it was last year."

Bayern and Dortmund left the pack far behind last season, and as no other clubs have the deep pockets to match them, they look set to dominate again.

The main challenge could come from Bremen, Borussia Moenchengladbach and VfB Stuttgart.

Dortmund, who went into the new season with injury worries, Sousa, signed from Juventus, and former Hansa

Rostock star Schneider may be forced to sit out the first part of the campaign.

Hitzfeld will also be without Germany midfielder Steffen Freund, who picked up a long-term knee injury during the European Championship in England in June.

The champions' problems were exposed in the German Cup last Sunday when they crashed out in the first round to regional league side Wattenscheid.

"We haven't got back to form yet," experienced defender Juergen Kohler said. "We'll need another three or four games."


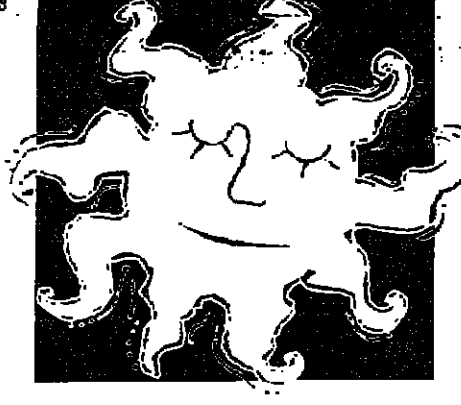
Dortmund begin the defence of their title Saturday with a tough away game at Bayer Leverkusen, revitalised under new coach Christoph Daum, the former Stuttgart trainer.

Bayern have the chance to get a head start when they take on relegation candidates St. Pauli Friday night.

All eyes will be on the controversial Basler, not just during the game, where his deadly free kicks could be a great asset, but also after the match when he talks to reporters.

The 27-year-old has a reputation for outspoken attacks on other figures in the game and his move to the controversial Bayern dressing room has raised eyebrows.

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People wishing to be included on the Register should fill out the following application and return it to: The British Council, P O Box 634, Amman 11118 or Fax 658413

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Israeli far right, Palestinians assail reported Hebron plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Two ultra-nationalist parties in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government said Wednesday they would oppose any move to abandon Israeli army control over all the West Bank city of Hebron.

The Tsomet Party led by Deputy Prime Minister Rafael Eitan and the National Religious Party (NRP) of Education Minister Zevulun Hammer hinted they would withdraw from government if Mr. Netanyahu handed over full control of most of Hebron to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) as required under the autonomy accord.

"We are opposed to the agreement as signed under the previous government and we demand that the Israeli army remain responsible for security throughout Hebron," said Yitzhak Rabin, a spokesman for the NRP which holds nine of the governing coalition's 66 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

"As it stands today, the revised plan being prepared by the government appears too close to the original pro-

ject to be acceptable to us," he said. Officials from Tsomet said they would act in concert with the NRP.

Mr. Netanyahu reaffirmed in a newspaper interview published Wednesday that his government intended to redeploy the army in Hebron, but he provided no details.

"We intend to carry out the redeployment but we want to do this in a way that will not cause an explosion in the city which would not just end the lives of Arabs and Jews but detonate the peace process," Mr. Netanyahu told the Yediot Aharot newspaper.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who was assigned the task of drawing up plans for the Hebron withdrawal, will present his ideas to Mr. Netanyahu by Friday, officials said.

After approval by Mr. Netanyahu, the project is to be presented by Mr. Mordechai to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, possibly as early as Sunday.

Mr. Arafat earlier this week warned he would refuse any renegotiation of the requirements concerning Hebron under the autonomy accords.

Israeli press reports Wednesday said Mr. Mordechai's revised plan for the pullback would leave the Israeli army in control of security across the city of 120,000 and greatly increase its presence in Jewish areas which cover about a fifth of Hebron and also include some 15,000 Palestinian residents.

The plan would also spread the redeployment out over a longer period than previously foreseen.

As agreed under the autonomy pact, the PNA would have full security and civilian control over the Arab quarters of the city — as it currently has in the other seven main West Bank towns.

There was to be no Israeli military presence in these parts of the city.

Senior Palestinian officials angrily denounced the reported new Hebron plan.

"We reject this completely. Israel is trying to escape from its agreements," Saeb Erakat, local affairs minister in the PNA and a senior Palestinian negotiator, told AFP from his home in Jericho.



An elderly Palestinian man shuffles past Israeli paratroopers guarding Hebron centre on Wednesday (Reuters photo)

Syria calls for halt to normalisation with Israel

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Wednesday called for the Arabs to halt any normalisation with Israel and keep up their economic boycott until the Jewish state accepts a "land-for-peace" settlement.

"It is time to turn the decisions of the Arab summit in Cairo into action, especially on halting the normalisation process undertaken by some Arab parties," said the official daily Al Baath.

The ruling party's newspaper was referring to Mauritania, Oman, Qatar and Tunisia which have forged commercial links with Israel.

"It's not possible for it (Israel) to have economic, commercial and political links ... with the Arabs at a time when that country has launched a full-blown campaign to Judaize the occupied territories," it said.

Al Baath said the Arab economic boycott of Israel was "a legitimate weapon of self-defence." "We must counter the intransigence of Israel with a similar intransigence," it said, accusing Israel's new right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of rejecting U.N. resolutions to withdraw from occupied Arab territories.

In Beirut Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Wednesday in Beirut that Syria rejects the pre-conditions of an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon as part of the Jewish state's "Lebanon first" proposal.

"If this option means the dismantling of the resistance, the integration of the collaborators (the South Lebanon Army — SLA — in the national army, security arrangements before any pullout, this equals a new May 17 peace accord which we refuse," he told reporters in Beirut. Lebanon and Israel signed on May 17, 1983, a peace accord which was later abrogated by Lebanon.

"But if Israel withdraws without conditions from Lebanon, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 425, we welcome this move," he said after holding talks with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

One killed, 11 wounded in Cyprus green line clashes

DHERINIA (Agencies) — Turkish troops on Wednesday killed a Greek Cypriot demonstrator and wounded 11 other people in the second fatal clash this week in the buffer zone of this war-divided island.

Police spokesman Glafcos Xenos identified the slain protester as Solomos Sprou Solomou, 26, from Paralimni, southeast Cyprus.

One of the wounded, he said, was a 59-year-old woman who was shot in the abdomen. The others included two United Nations peacekeepers and two Cypriot policemen.

Waldemar Rokoszewski, spokesman for the 1,200-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus, told the state-run Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation that one soldier was wounded in the arm and another in the back.

He would not give their nationalities or elaborate on

their condition but the official Cyprus News Agency said they were British. The agency gave no source for its information.

Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides, meanwhile, called for an urgent meeting later Wednesday of the National Security Council to discuss the latest state of violence.

Mr. Clerides chairs the council, which groups key cabinet ministers and political party leaders and debates issues of national security.

The Greek Cypriot protest was shot after he broke through barbed wire on the edge of the Turkish Cypriot zone at Dherinia and climbed up a flagpole in an attempt to tear down a Turkish flag, witnesses said.

He was reaching for the red-and-white flag when he was shot in the head and fell to the ground, they said. U.N. soldiers and protesters reached under the barbed wire to drag

his body out of the Turkish Cypriot area.

The shooting happened almost at the same spot where another Greek Cypriot protestor, Tassos Isaac, was beaten to death in clashes with Turkish Cypriots on Sunday, in the worst intercommunal violence on the island in 22 years.

After Isaac's emotional funeral Wednesday in his hometown of Paralimni, hundreds of protesters came to Dherinia.

While a delegation was laying a wreath and a Greek flag at the place where the 24-year-old was beaten to death, some 200 Greek Cypriot demonstrators stormed into no-man's land and marched to the edge of the Turkish Cypriot zone.

Greek Cypriot anti-riot police armed with tear gas and batons deployed in front of the buffer zone to try to prevent a repeat of Sunday's violence, but failed to stop the protesters from breaking through.

Greek tugs pull troubled Turkish navy frigate home in neighbourly gesture

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek tugboats on Wednesday towed a Turkish navy frigate into its own territorial waters in the southeastern Aegean Sea, averting a potential new crisis between the rival countries.

Foreign Minister Theodore Pangalos said he was pleased that "Greek sovereignty was not put in doubt at any time" and that "everything took place in accordance with international practice in such cases." After an agreement reached between the Greek and Turkish navy chiefs early Wednesday, three Greek tugboats including one from the Greek navy helped to dislodge the frigate Yavuz from its sandy trap some 400 metres northeast of the island of Kos, the Greek Defence Ministry said.

Ankara later thanked Athens for its help, and said it hoped the cooperation would help thaw the perennially frosty relations between the two countries.

"We believe this cooperation for the salvage of our ship will contribute to efforts to improve the relations between the two countries," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

A Greek marine officer was aboard the Yavuz — which means "indomitable" — to direct the salvage operation, which was preceded by an inspection of the vessel by Greek frogmen.

Greek warships and a police launch from Kos were also on hand. The frigate had been following a light cruiser, the Piyale Pasa, in Greek waters when it struck the Ammoglossa reef before running aground at about 1:00 a.m. Wednesday (2200 GMT Tuesday) the Greek Defence Ministry said.

The frigate was to be handed over to Turkish authorities who will have it towed to a Turkish port. Mr. Pangalos said at a press conference.

"The coordination of the operations was efficient between the marine authorities of the two countries," he added.

An informed Greek source said that Defence Minister Gerassimos Arsenis, who was vacationing in Cephalonia, western Greece, had flown to Athens in the early hours of Wednesday to attend a crisis meeting with Mr. Pangalos. Greece, which is allowed

by international law to tow any vessel that runs aground in its territorial waters, had indicated to Turkey that it was prepared to rescue the frigate, but became concerned when Ankara was slow in responding, the source said. The Aegean Sea has been the subject of repeated disputes between the two traditional rivals, who came to the brink of war on Jan. 30 in a row over ownership of a small islet in the eastern Aegean known as Imia to the Greeks and Kardak to the Turks.

In response to mediation by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Secretary-General Javier Solana, Greece and Turkey agreed early in July not to carry out military exercises in the Aegean between July 1 and Sept. 1, to avoid incidents. The already strained relations between the two, both NATO members, deteriorated further a week ago after publication by the Turkish daily Cumhuriyet of a Turkish military report laying claim to about 100 islands, islets and rocky outcrops on the eastern side of the Aegean.

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U.S. senator discusses drugs and terrorism in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — U.S. Senator Hank Brown said Wednesday that two of Washington's biggest worries — drugs and terrorism — figured in talks this week with Afghan officials.

A lawless country ruled by warring factions, Afghanistan is one of the world's biggest suppliers of heroin, much of it sent to Europe, according to a United Nations report. About 20 per cent makes its way to the United States.

Also troublesome for the United States is the presence in Afghanistan of known extremists.

According to several reports, including Pakistani intelligence agents, Osama Ben Laden, a reputed financier of extremist groups in the Middle East and elsewhere, is living in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province with his three wives and an entourage of about 150 people.

Mr. Brown, chairman of the Senate South Asia Subcommittee, told a news conference in the Pakistan capital that he talked to the Afghan authorities about both drugs and terrorism but would not say what response he received.

He said some U.S. money spent in Afghanistan through the United Nations is prevented by a law from being spent in a known drug producing area.

But seeking extradition of Mr. Ben Laden, Mr. Brown said was the job of the executive branch of the U.S. government.

Mr. Brown spent Monday and Tuesday meeting Afghan officials, including President Burhanuddin Rabbani and powerful northern warlord General Rashid Dostum.

He did not meet Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, but a spokesman for the prime minister told the Associated Press Wednesday that "we welcome the help of everyone, including from the United States, in our search for peace."

The U.S. was one of the biggest financial backers of Afghanistan's rebels in the 1980s when they battled invading Russian soldiers. But in 1992 when the rebels threw out the communists from power they quickly turned their guns on each other. For the past four years they have pummeled the capital of Kabul with rockets, destroying at least 75 per cent of the city and killing more than 25,000 people, most of them civilians.

U.S. activists return after Iraq mission

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three American activists returned to Amman on Wednesday after openly defying the U.S. government by travelling to Iraq on their U.S. passports without prior permission and said they were willing to be arrested for violating a ban on travel to the politically isolated country.

Kathy Kelly, leader of the Chicago-based group called Voices in the Wilderness, said she and the two others, Bradford Lytle and Richard McDowell, intended to visit the U.N. office as well as the U.S. embassy here to "inform them of our trip."

The three carried with them medicines worth \$8,000 and delivered them to hospitals in Baghdad and the southern port city of Basra, Ms. Kelly told the Jordan Times.

If the U.S. government decides to take action against them, the activists face up to 12 years in prison and \$1 million in fine for violating the travel ban.

While there is no blanket order against U.S. citizens travelling to Iraq, U.S. laws stipulate that prior permission be taken if those visiting that country intend to use their U.S. passports.

Iraq is under sweeping international sanctions imposed after its August 1990 invasion and seven-month occupation of neighbouring Kuwait.

A U.S.-led military coalition evicted Iraq from Kuwait in early 1991, but the sanctions remain in place pending Baghdad's compliance with U.N. demands that include the elimination of all its weapons of mass destruction.

Ms. Kelly said her group vehemently opposed the sanctions, which she described as having brought untold suffering to the people of Iraq.

"We believe that one of the most powerful protests that we can make against the sanctions is to publicly break them," Ms. Kelly said. "We have broken the sanctions twice now...and we intend to do it again."

The August 7-14 trip to Iraq was the second undertaken by Voices in the Wilderness, which claims up to 300 hardcore supporters. Another mission, also led by Ms. Kelly, went to Iraq with relief supplies in March this year.

"We plan to visit the United Nations office and the U.S. embassy in Amman to inform them of our Iraq mission and that we have violated the sanctions," said Ms. Kelly. "We will also announce our plans to send another mission to Iraq in November."

Ms. Kelly said the group did not meet any high-ranking Iraqi official or politician during its visit to Iraq. "We held technical talks with officials in the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to identify the priorities of need."

"Everything is a priority in Iraq," she added. "They could use everything that we could provide from our limited sources."

Ms. Kelly, who has a record of participating in anti-nuclear and pacifist demonstrations in the U.S. and abroad including Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as in the Middle East, said the American people "are unaware of the tragic realities of the people of Iraq, particularly women and children who are paying the price for the sanctions."

"They do not have potable water, let alone food," said Ms. Kelly, describing what she witnessed in Basra as "beyond description."

"Hospitals and doctors are there but there is no medicine to treat the sick," she said. "When you hold a child in your arms you are really moved by the realization that the child is perhaps in the last few hours of his or her life."

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